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No. 315 October 5, 2008

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POLICE CHIEF WEIGHING UP TOP MET JOB

Bookies slash odds on county's chief constable



DECISION: Police chief Mike Fuller

CHIEF Constable Michael Fuller has confirmed he is considering applying to become the next Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

In an exclusive interview, the county's top officer told Kent on Sunday he had not yet decided if he should enter the contest to succeed Sir Ian Blair, who stepped down on Thursday afternoon.

On Friday, bookies William Hill slashed the odds on Mr Fuller, 49, taking Britain's top policing job from 14/1 to 10/1.

And when asked if he was putting his name forward Mr Fuller told KoS: "I haven't decided about it yet, I am genuinely undecided.

"I know the demands of the job and it's something I will give a lot of thought to. It's not something I would take on lightly.

"I have worked closely with the last three commissioners and know the demands and stresses of the job from first-hand experience and the inside."

EXCLUSIVE

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

Before joining Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, Mr Fuller had been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

He came up with a strategy that led to the Metropolitan Police anti-burglary initiative, Operation Bumblebee.

He also established Operation Trident, the force's campaign to stop black-on-black gun crime and helped set up the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force in response to criticism of the Metropolitan Police arising from the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

As a detective superintendent based in the Home Office, he gave regular advice to the Home Secretary and government ministers and was later appointed deputy assistant commissioner (director of intelligence) at New Scotland Yard.

Were he to apply for the job Mr Fuller could point to a strong track record of reducing crime in London and Kent.

He known to value "police operational independence and political neutrality", and describes his style as "firm but fair with a no-nonsense approach".

In the past he has spoken out to back his rank-and-file officers in their battle with the Government over pay.

Kent's most senior officer also made headlines last month with his criticisms of sentencing policy that meant repeat offenders were being released because of a shortage of prison places.

Race is an ever-present issue in London, and under Mr Fuller's command Kent is only one of two forces to receive an 'excellent' rating for diversity.

Mr Fuller, who is Britain's first black chief constable, holds honorary doctorates of law from Sussex University and the University of East London.

He is a non-practising barrister and was called

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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'He can point to record cutting crime'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.

Damian Green, Tory MP for Ashford, said: "He has been a good chief constable in Kent and he has done a lot to promote community policing, so I can understand why he's a frontrunner for the Met job.

"If he got the job it would be a loss to Kent, but these things happen. It reflects the importance of the Kent job that he is included in the list of possible replacements."

Kent Police Authority renewed his appointment as chief constable three weeks ago.

Members were remaining tight-lipped about the speculation linking him to the London job.

Cllr Ray Parker, a member who is a Labour councillor for Kent County Council, said: "I think Mike Fuller does a very good job in Kent, but London is a very different arena and there are national roles and responsibilities.

"I cannot comment on his suitability in that aspect. Only he knows if he can fulfil that role.

"Chief Constable Fuller has done a very good job – the crime stats prove that with the huge drop we have had across the board. But I cannot comment on his suitability for commissioner – that is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority."

Brian Sangha, an independent member of the authority, said: "We have a chief constable who's delivering. If you were to ask me, 'is Michael Fuller a good chief constable of Kent', yes, he is doing a good job."

Sir Ian is due to leave his post on December 1.

On Friday afternoon, William Hill's 1/2 favourite to replace Sir Ian as the next permanent Met Commissioner was his deputy Paul Stephenson, followed by Sir Hugh Orde (Northern Ireland) at 5/1. At 10/1, Mr Fuller is joint third favourite with Merseyside Chief Constable Bernard Hogan-Howe and the UK's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronald Flanagan.

Killer and jail worker got drugs into prison

By **JAMES ALEXANDRE**
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CAUGHT OUT: (Left to right) Tyrone Woolley and brothers Richard and Christopher Hill

A CONVICT serving life for murder, a prison worker and his brother have been jailed for conspiring to supply drugs in a prison.

Tyrone Woolley, 27, previously of HMP Swaleside, Christopher Hill, 21, of Eastchurch, Sheppey and Richard Hill, 21, from Sheerness, pleaded guilty at court hearings in August and September to conspiracy to supply controlled drugs and mobile telephones into Swaleside Prison on Sheppey.

Woolley, who was already serving a life sentence for killing a man in London in January, 2003, received a four-year prison sentence.

Judge Jeremy Carey, presiding at Maidstone Crown Court, said he must serve at least half of this term.

Christopher Hill, an operational support worker with HM Prison Service received five years behind bars and his brother Richard Hill, an asbestos remover, was jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Det Insp Thomas Richards, of Kent Police's serious and organised crime unit, said: "This is a very satisfying outcome to what was a long, complicated and sensitive investigation.

"It was particularly challenging because a criminal justice agency was involved, as well as a very dangerous and influential criminal.

"However, I am proud that the commitment and expertise of my team has resulted in the demise of a significant criminal network and prevented drugs and other banned items entering the prison system.

"I also want to pay tribute to members of the Prison Service's security department with whom we worked closely and collaboratively throughout. Without their help it would have been much more difficult to bring the offenders to justice.

"The sentence sends a very strong message to criminals and would-be offenders that crime doesn't pay and we will catch you and bring you before the courts. We also hope it shows the community that the safety and quality of life of Kent residents and visitors is a priority for Kent police."

Interventions

Acting governor of HMP Swaleside Martin Glaze said: "I am proud of my security department and the professional manner in which they dealt with this complex and sensitive matter.

"Working closely with the police is just one of a range of robust measures Swaleside employs to prevent illegal drugs, mobile phones and other contraband from entering the prison. Keeping drugs out of prisons helps them to run more smoothly and allows prisoners to engage more effectively with treatment and other interventions.

"The vast majority of Prison Service staff are honest, hardworking and professional.

"The Prison Service seeks to create and support a culture that tackles corruption and dishonesty wherever it is found."

Kent Police and the Prison Service launched a joint investigation in December, 2007, when prison officers searched a secure storage cage in Swaleside prison.

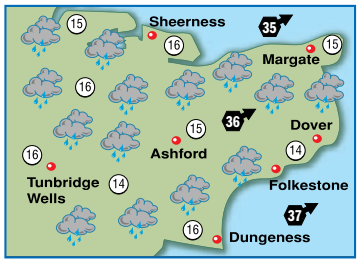
"They found a range of controlled drugs including crack cocaine, cannabis, ketamine, amphetamines and ecstasy, as well as mobile phones, batteries, SIM cards and chargers. They were hidden in a box of washing powder."

In January this year more drugs and banned items were found in a loaf of bread due to be delivered to Swaleside.

The joint investigation uncovered a criminal network involving Woolley and the Hill brothers.

Woolley received the drugs and banned items, Christopher Hill had access to the prison stores and smuggled the banned items into jail. His twin brother Richard arranged for the drugs and banned items to be collected from sources outside the prison.

Kent today



TODAY: Unsettled with overcast skies and outbreaks of rain, often heavy and prolonged. The rain will ease in the evening. Near gale force south-westerly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

TONIGHT: Dry with clear spells once the rain clears away eastwards. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	sun	13	55	London	sun	15	59
Belfast	thunder	16	61	Liverpool	rain	16	61
Birmingham	sun	12	54	Manchester	fair	13	55
B'mouth	rain	13	55	Newcastle	sun	14	57
Bristol	rain	16	61	Norwich	rain	13	55
Cardiff	showers	14	57	Oxford	rain	14	57
Cork	cloudy	13	55	Southsea	rain	15	59
Edinburgh	sun	14	57	S'hampton	sun	15	59
Glasgow	sun	14	57	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	sun	13	55	Swansea	rain	15	59
Leeds	sun	12	54	Torquay	rain	15	59

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.03am	Sunset	6.23pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	2.09pm	Moonset	8.55pm	6.23pm to 7.05am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	02.45	6.1	14.57	5.9	03.21	5.8	15.36	5.5
Margate	03.51	4.4	16.12	4.3	04.23	4.2	16.54	4.1
St Mary's	08.36	4.9	20.50	4.6	09.14	4.6	21.32	4.3

Week ahead

monday Mainly dry. max 17C min 11C

tuesday Windy. Rain. max 18C min 10C

wednesday Rain clearing. max 18C min 6C

thursday Bright. Dry. max 18C min 11C

friday Windy. Rain. max 18C min 10C

saturday Wet and windy. max 17C min 9C

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Presenter looking forward to new challenge

Heming's not about to be a Heartbreaker

A POPULAR breakfast show host has quashed rumours that he is to be sacked by revealing he is set to stay at Kent's largest commercial radio station.

Invicta FM DJ James Heming said he has signed a new contract and will be celebrating a decade presenting the early-morning slot next year.

"My main highlight is probably just surviving this long – it is not something I'd planned really. It is all credit to the Kent listeners and the bosses here who feel that it can continue now that I've clocked up nearly 10 years," the veteran presenter said.

The father-of-four, who lives in Chestfield near Whitstable, has enjoyed some exotic trips during his time at the station taking in Hong Kong, Australia and recently the Maldives.

But one thing he said he will never get used to are the 4.30am wake-up calls.

"I try and get a lie-in at the weekends, but with children it does not really lend itself to long mornings in bed with the newspapers.

"The worst time is about one or two in the afternoon, that's when I get really grumpy."

He refused to reveal the length of his new contract or say how much he was being paid, although he did say "it's much less than people think it is. It's all for the love".

Invicta is set to undergo the biggest change in its 24-year history. It is among 30 other radio stations across the country going through a multi-million pound re-brand and in just over a year it will change its name to Heart.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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Mr Heming has greeted the news with a mixture of nostalgia and optimism.

"The phrase 'change or die' is actually quite true," he said. "You have to keep evolving things, especially in this day and age. The choices people have of what they do and how they spend their lives are changing so quickly.

"The golden age of radio is over, especially commercially funded. We have got to try and keep adapting and being as successful and profitable as we can, even if that means upgrading and changing the brand."

Syndicated

The 37-year-old said he and the rest of the Kent staff were embracing the re-brand.

He said: "The change to Heart is just the next chapter in a hugely successful radio. People will still know and love it as their Kent radio station."

The move will see Invicta share the majority of shows syndicated across 42 stations around the country, but it will retain its breakfast, 'drivetime' and afternoon show, which are broadcast from its Whitstable studios.

Neil Webster, the station's managing director, said: "There will be lots of locally-produced stuff including local news, traffic and travel.

"We will be more than twice the size of our nearest commercial competitor."

The major overhaul by owner Global Radio, the largest operator of radio licences in the UK, is said to be an attempt to take on the BBC.

Mr Webster said he hoped Invicta's 354,000 listeners a week would increase "significantly".



STAYING POWER: James Heming has been a DJ on Invicta FM for nearly a decade

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Eurostar will be hit by strike

CROSS-CHANNEL travellers have been warned that industrial action is set to cancel all Eurostar services between the UK and Brussels.

A 24-hour general strike by rail workers in Belgium will leave the train company unable to provide services to the country's capital tomorrow.

Eurostar said that timetable constraints in place after a fire broke out on a freight train in the Channel Tunnel in September meant that no service would be able to run between the UK and Lille either.

The strike begins at 10pm today, which means the 7.30pm train from London to Brussels will terminate at Lille.

Passengers have been advised to change their travel plans or exchange their tickets for different dates.

For more information visit www.eurostar.co.uk or call the Ashford Contact Centre on 08705 186 186.

Miliband must act over plant

GREENPEACE campaigners have called on Ed Miliband, head of the Government's newly set up climate change department, to axe plans to build a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth.

The pressure group's executive director John Sauven said the opening of a dedicated energy and climate office was a positive move, but urged for fresh ideas to help tackle the world's climate crisis.

He said: "For the last 10 years this government has dithered on climate change, offering us inspiring rhetoric but little in the way of real action.

"The first test of Miliband's credibility will be whether he stops the UK's first new coal-fired power station in more than 30 years at Kingsnorth in Kent."

Prime Minister Gordon Brown unveiled his reshuffled cabinet on Friday.

Pair jailed for vicious attack in toilet which left 44-year-old dead

TWO men have been sentenced to a total of 28 years in jail for murder after they "viciously" attacked a man who later died in hospital.

Duncan Shelbourne, from Cliftonville, Margate, was given a 16-year jail sentence at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday.

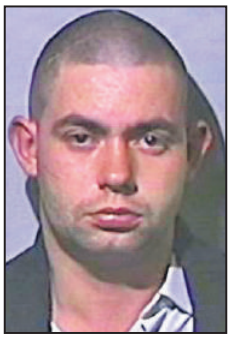
A jury found the 46-year-old guilty of murder on September 16.

Kyle Eames, 22, of no fixed address, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after he earlier pleaded guilty to murder.

The men attacked Alan Parker, 44, of Cliftonville, in March last year. He was found seriously injured in the public toilets in Fifth Avenue nightclub in Cliftonville and died later in hospital.

Det Sgt Claire Munday said: "The victim was a vulnerable man who was left unable to summons help after this nasty, vicious attack. I hope the sentences give Mr Parker's family some sense that justice has been done."





KILLERS: Duncan Shelbourne (left) and Kyle Eames

Det Chief Insp Dean Barnes, who led the investigation, said after Shelbourne was found guilty: "The prosecution has always believed that two persons were directly responsible for Mr Parker's murder and although Duncan Shelbourne refused to acknowledge his part he has been found guilty.

"We would once again express our condolences to Mr Parker's family. Kent police also wish to thank all those who came forward as witnesses in this trial.

"Their co-operation was fundamental to the success of the trial."



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Curly Wurly confusion

Public's views on giant artwork ignored

EXCLUSIVE

By IAN PATEL

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ONE of the public's favourite designs for the giant £2 million public artwork at Ebbsfleet has been dumped, while one of the least popular has been put onto the shortlist announced this week.

Judges have named a shortlist of three designs by Daniel Buren, Richard Deacon and Mark Wallinger, that have been selected for further development.

But the confidential results of a massive public consultation exercise show that a design by Christopher Le Brun, backed by 49 per cent of the public who made comments on his proposal, failed to make it through to the next round of the selection process.

A design by Rachel Whiteread, who grew up in Ebbsfleet, was also dropped by judges.

However, Richard Deacon's design, which was backed by only 14 per cent of people, was shortlisted by the selection panel chaired by the director of Margate's Turner Contemporary, Victoria Pomery.

Inspiration

The geometrical design would be a painted steel latticework outlining a 'stack' of 26 differently shaped polyhedrons, which he describes as a "nest".

It is based on a cairn, which is a pile of stones that were historically used to mark routes and burial sites.

The fact that there would be 26 'modules' is to reflect that there are 26 letters of the alphabet because Mr Deacon sees writing as the cornerstone of western culture.

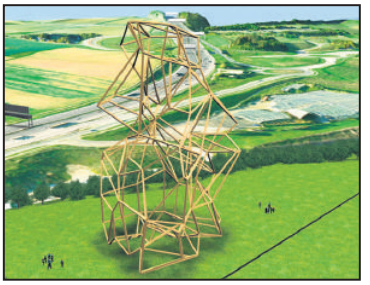
But his inspiration seems to have been lost on some of the public, one of whom described the work as "take three Curly Wurlys and apply gentle heat. Freeze and put into a display case."

More than 40,000 shoppers at Bluewater took part in the three-month consultation exercise held between May and August. A further 10,000 people submitted their comments via the internet.

The results of the consultation exercise for the iconic sculpture to stand at Springhead Park looking out over Ebbsfleet Valley and the Thames Estuary have been seen exclusively by Kent on Sunday.

Also part of the consultation was an innovative arts project with five schools in the area who produced a series of short films inspired by the artwork proposals.

The giant Ebbsfleet Landmark Project is being billed as the UK's largest and most significant public art commission since Antony Gormley's Angel of the North, and will be an "enduring symbol of the new development of Ebbsfleet Valley and Ebbsfleet International station".





CURLY WURLY: Public consultation revealed Christopher Le Brun's design (right) was popular, but judges have shortlisted the latticework by Richard Deacon (left) instead

Eurostar, Land Securities and London & Continental Railways, the company behind High Speed 1 which will provide fast rail links between London and Kent next year, have organised the project.

Mark Wallinger's design for a white horse was the early favourite to win the commission, though Kent County Council has been trying to organise opposition to the design, claiming a rearing Invita horse design would be more appropriate.

There have also been concerns that the Turner Prize winner's giant steel structure may be impossible to build and prohibitively expensive.

The insiders' hot favourite is now French conceptual artist Daniel Buren who is proposing what he calls a 'signal' – a tower made of five stacked cubes containing a vertical laser beam that will reach indefinitely into the sky.

Wallinger and Buren were both backed by 56 per cent of the public.

Announcing the shortlist this week Ms Pomery said: "The panel was very excited by all the submissions and has decided to take three forward for further development before making a final decision.

"We have asked Mark, Daniel and Richard to refine their proposals and to explore the engineering and cost feasibility in more detail. Our aim is to meet again in January to review their work in the light of this information."

While no-one was prepared to discuss the confidential report, chairman of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project, Stephen Jordan said: "With such an outstanding range of proposals, it's right that we now look carefully at the practical delivery of each and explore further funding options.

"After all, this commission will not just be here for years, but for generations to come. With more than 40,000 people commenting on the proposals at the Bluewater exhibition, this has not only been a monumental consultation exercise but one that has proved extremely useful and constructive."

When asked the point of the consultation when the public do not get to chose a final work, a spokesman for the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project said: "The process has been successful in engaging thousands of people in the region and outside in the process and has demonstrated the interest people have in public art.

"We did not seek a statistically significant outcome but a snapshot of views."



ON THE SHORTLIST: Mark Wallinger's white horse design

Rail chiefs in U-turn on commuter route

THE PEAK Chatham to Cannon Street service has won a reprieve from rail bosses who had threatened to cancel the high-speed commuter route.

Southeastern had planned to axe the service next December once its trains began operating on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. But after an 18-month commuter campaign rail chiefs have been forced to perform an embarrassing U-turn.

Southeastern's February, 2007, announcement to cancel the service was met with anger by hundreds of commuters, who said the move would add hours to their daily journey.

One commuter said: "My concern is the introduction of the domestic high-speed link in 2009.

"As a result, with those trains going to St Pancras, the remaining domestic services are to be less per hour to Victoria and Cannon Street, with additional stops making the service slower. The reason we are told is that more people will move over to the high-speed link.

"This is unlikely to happen in significant numbers, particularly as Cannon Street has the highest percentage of London stations whereby commuters are able to walk to work."

The commuters' cause was picked up by Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw, who said he was delighted the service was saved.

Important

He said: "The train company appeared to be pursuing a reduction in the Cannon Street service, but the overwhelming public response was against any such reduction.

"The Cannon Street service is an important commuter link for local people and I challenged Southeastern to improve but above all keep the service.

"I welcome the announcement that the peak service will be retained. This is great news for all Medway commuters and I am grateful to Southeastern for listening to people's concerns."

In a statement, Southeastern's managing director, Charles Horton, said: "We have worked with Jonathan Shaw MP and listened to local rail users' concerns to maintain current capacity on mainline routes into London terminals.

"We want to offer passengers a choice between high-speed and mainline service – the timetable will meet those aspirations.

"Southeastern appreciates Jonathan wants a better and fairer deal for Chatham commuters and we will continue to deliver a quality of service the people of Chatham deserve."

Old coastline found at fort

AN ANCIENT coastline two miles inland from where Kent's lies today has been uncovered at a Roman fort near Sandwich.

Archaeologists from English Heritage have been digging at the site in Richborough for the past month, with their greatest discovery being remnants of the coastline which date back to the Roman invasion of Britain in AD43.

One member of the group, Tony Wilmott, said it was an exciting discovery.

He said: "It is widely known that Richborough Roman Fort was the gateway to Roman Britain 2,000 years ago, but what is really exciting is that we have actually found the Roman foreshore while digging in a deep trench alongside the remains of a Roman wall.

"The bottom of the trench continually fills with water and by trowelling you can feel the hard surface, which was once a beach. We have long been curious about this fallen fort wall, and now we know there was a Roman harbour sitting out there."

Fragments of Roman pottery and building materials such as wood and leather have also been found in the ditch, which will be carbon-dated to validate the time period of about the 4th century.

The dig along the 90-metre section of collapsed wall came to an end on Friday, with the archaeologists also thrilled to uncover a medieval dock.

Mr Wilmott said: "This dock was created by a medieval section of wall, being used as a plug between two sections of collapsed Roman wall.

"We believe it was built with the same masonry technique as the contemporary mid-14th century town wall in Sandwich.

"The significance of the medieval quayside is still being evaluated but it is known that Sandwich was once a large medieval port.

"First impressions suggest it may have been associated with the nearby St Augustine's chapel."

Richborough was originally named Rutupiae when the Romans landed, and it was one of the starting points for the road known today as Watling Street, which runs on to Canterbury and London.

At the start of the dig, local volunteers helped to reclaim the walls of the Roman fort from undergrowth, exposing them for the first time since the 1930s.

During the excavation, archaeologists also uncovered a number of smaller finds including Roman coins and fragments of Italian marble.

This marble is thought to have come from a triumphal arch built in about AD80 to commemorate the conquest of Britain.

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Cross-dressing Turner Prize-winner brings Unpopular Culture exhibition to Kent

Artists' unfashionable art

Pictures: ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION







By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AN EXHIBITION of post-war British art chosen by a Turner Prize-winning artist is being held in a Kent gallery.

The ceramic artist and cross-dresser Grayson Perry, who collected his 2003 award dressed as his female alter-ego Claire, also works as a curator and he has chosen 60 works from the Arts Council Collection for the show.

Perry said the exhibition, Unpopular Culture, showcasing the work of 40 artists, which has come to the Royal Museum and Art Gallery in Canterbury as part of a national tour, explores a period in history "before British art became fashionable".

Figurative painting, bronze sculpture and documentary photography are among the media on show portraying everything from the austere 1940s to 1980s Thatcherite Britain.

The art has been chosen from more than 7,500 works in the organisation's collection.

"The first time I trawled through the catalogues of the Arts Council Collection I was drawn to these three distinct categories of art, which are bound together by their ineffable sense of mood: subtle, sensitive, lyrical and quiet in contrast to today, when much art can seem like shouty advertisements for concepts or personalities," Perry said.

Satirising

He said he chose painters and photographers whose work was an honest reflection of British life and society in a time when people had a different sense of self and were less defined and influenced by television, mass media and digital communications.

Two new works by Perry, who is famed for his pottery, often using classical shapes such as Grecian-like urns to depict scenes of car-wrecks, supermodels and autobiographical references, are on display at the show, which launched last Saturday.

LS Lowry, Paul Nash, Frank Auerbach and Lynn Chadwick are among the artists being shown along with the photographs of David Hurn, Tony Ray-Jones and Patrick Ward.

Perry has always positioned himself at the margins of the art world and a theme of his work has been satirising the "boring cool people" in the art world. He said he was drawn to art that embodies a quiet nostalgia and restraint.

• Unpopular Culture is on view Monday to Saturday from 10am-5pm until November 8. Admission is free.

ARTWORKS: (Top to bottom) Quartos (1960) by Meg Rutherford; After the Meal (1952) by Jack Smith; Arrangement in Turquoise and Cream (1979-81) by David Hepher. Artist Grayson Perry (right) as his female alter-ego Claire

Picture: ERIC GREAT-REX



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Bridging generation gap must be priority

THE head of an older people's forum has called for authorities in Kent to give more support and funding for initiatives that bring people of all ages together.

Anne Belworthy was among 150 pensioners invited to a reception with Prime Minister Gordon Brown at 10 Downing Street to celebrate UK Older People's Day on Wednesday.

The event was held to celebrate and recognise the work of the elderly in society and brought together older people involved in charities, community work and forums.

Mrs Belworthy said she had heard about a lot of interesting initiatives that brought together young and old so they could learn from each other and break down misconceptions about the elderly.

"A chap from Hackney told me about a group that mixed older and young people who were interested in photography, which is a good example and funded by Tower Hamlets Council.

"I must say that some of the funding they got from their councils was quite something.

"In Manchester there is an organisation called Valuing Older People, which has been given four full-time officers for support – we've never had that sort of thing. I'd like to see many more initiative in Kent."

She said Mr Brown was on fine form at the event, chatting and laughing with his guests and making jokes.

Inflation

Mrs Belworthy, who is chair of the East Kent Association of Senior Citizens Forums, also attended a lunch at Whitehall with the pensions reform minister Mike O'Brien.

"I asked him about pensions this year and what the situation was in regard to the credit crunch and he said he was looking at setting them above the rate of inflation," she said.

Meanwhile in Kent, a senior citizens conference was held at the Kent County Cricket Ground in Canterbury, organised by the forum.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Health, access to transport, finance and inequalities in the council tax system were among the issues discussed.

"I think the biggest issue is that of care," Mrs Belworthy said. "When people need care in the home and paying for it – that is always a worry.

"I do not think it is particularly bad in Kent, but because it is means-tested people worry about paying for it, even those who can afford it.

"The whole argument is that it should be free, but at times like this that is just not possible."

Across the county around 8,000 disabled and elderly people receive care at home.

Kent County Council raised its domiciliary care charges earlier this year so that people are now having to pay up to 85 per cent of their disposable incomes to get help with basic needs such as getting out of bed, having a shower, using the toilet, cooking and housework.

The cost of social care is set to continue to rise because in 10 years' time there will be 63,100 more over 65-year-olds and a 25 per cent increase in the number of people with dementia.

Energy prices were also a hot topic at the conference and many expressed fears over not being able to pay bills if costs continued to spiral, Mrs Belworthy added.

Profile

A spokesman for KCC's adult social services said the authority supported the principle of initiatives that bring together the elderly and young people in the community.

He said KCC had appointed councillor Mike Angell as older people's champion to increase the profile of the elderly. Cllr Angell's position gives him the opportunity to lobby directly for projects involving older people.

Be more 'breast aware'

A BREAST surgeon in Medway has urged women and men to check themselves regularly.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, which aims to highlight the need for people to become 'breast aware'.

Delilah Hassanally, consultant oncoplastic breast surgeon at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Being 'breast aware' means examining yourself so you get to know what is normal for you.

"This means you can detect changes, if and when they occur. Self-examination is not recommended in isolation. Any concerns should be raised with a clinician."

She said breast awareness was one of the most important factors helping doctors pick up the early signs of breast cancer.

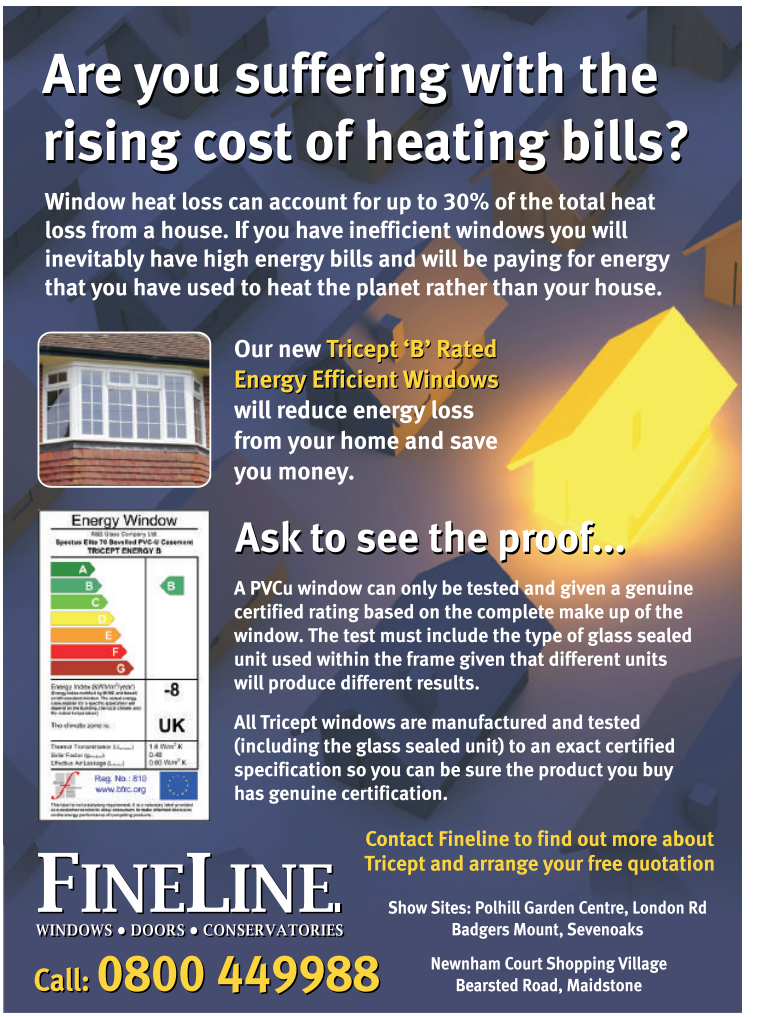
Treatment for the cancer is most successful if a tumour is diagnosed early, which allows for it to be completely removed through surgery.

Miss Hassanally added: "The success of treatment in breast disease relies on early detection, which is made possible by raising breast awareness. I encourage all women and men in Kent to check their breasts regularly."

The more obvious symptoms people should look out for are a lump, pain, nipple discharge or a change in the breast. Routine screenings or mammograms are carried out on women from the age of 50-70 every three years.







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County town thanks troops



FIGHTING FORCE: The Queens Gurkha Engineers march through Maidstone to the museum

New statue shows debt of gratitude to Gurkha servicemen

PROUD Gurkha soldiers marched through Maidstone town centre on Thursday cheered on by hundreds of people lining the streets.

About 150 of the Queens Gurkha Engineers, led by their national band, paraded through the county town before an honorary statue was unveiled.

The specially-commissioned bronze sculpture will stand outside Maidstone Museum as a lasting tribute to their service to the town.

After the parade from County Hall to the museum in St Faiths Street, the Gurkhas formed ranks to be inspected by the Mayor of Maidstone Denise Joy, Lieutenant General David Bill and Gurkha Major Dudh Gurung.

MP Ann Widdecombe and sculptor Mary Cox, who made the statue, watched the parade from outside the museum gates and courtyard alongside many ex-servicemen.

One of those, Albert Bennett, who will celebrate his 94th birthday next month and served in 155 Spitfire Squadron during World War Two, said: "My father fought in World War One with the Gurkhas. I'm wearing his medal today. I'm very much looking forward to today and the High Court outcome yesterday has been the icing on the cake."

Before the unveiling of the statue in honour of the soldiers who have played an important part in the British Armed Services since 1815,

By ANNA WHITE
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk



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Pictures: PHIL HOUGHTON



PARADE: The Mayor of Maidstone Denise Joy (below) was presented to the troops during the statue unveiling (above)



Maidstone council's cabinet member for culture Cllr Brian Moss said: "Maidstone is proud of our association with the Gurkhas and Maidstone's pride continues here today."

The Mayor and Lt Gen Bill unveiled the statue of a Gurkha soldier in dress uniform, which is mounted on granite from the soldiers' homeland of Nepal, to mark the 60th anniversary of the raising of the Queens Gurkha Engineers.

Cllr Dan Daley said: "Today we celebrate that this statue will be a constant reminder of our eternal debt of gratitude to these unique fighting men and we honour them.

"Today the people of Maidstone salute you.

"I congratulate the Gurkhas on their High Court victory this week. If we can fight together then we should be able to live together."

After the blessing and unveiling, the crowds of well-wishers flooded into the museum's courtyard to take a look at the statue.

Ms Cox, who created the sculpture from clay, said: "It has been an amazing turnout. It was exciting and wonderful to see something you have made that will be there permanently."

Miss Widdecombe added: "It is a tremendous tribute. Yesterday's verdict has been the icing on the cake that so many people have been fighting for."

The £15,000 for the lasting tribute was raised in just three months after an overwhelming response to a public appeal – supported by our sister paper Yourmaidstone.

The Queens Gurkha Engineers are based at Invicta Park Barracks in Maidstone.

News and sport updated daily online
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Gurkhas win court battle to stay in UK

A GROUP of Gurkhas have won a landmark High Court case allowing them to settle in the UK.

The cases of 2,000 other Nepalese troops recruited into the British Army are now being reviewed following the result.

The Government changed its rules to allow those who retired after 1997 to settle here. But Gurkhas that retired before then said it was unfair they did not also have the automatic right to stay.

Those who wanted to remain in the UK have had to apply for British residence and if they were turned down they faced being deported.

Kent is home to the 550-strong 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles at Shorncliffe, Folkestone, and another 200 serve in the Queens Gurkhas Engineers, part of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment.

Following the legal victory for five Gurkhas and the widow of another, all those facing being kicked out may be able to stay.

The six wanted a judicial review to be held into government claims the men did not have "strong ties" to the UK, as their main base was in Hong Kong until 1997.

Moral debt

But the judge, Mr Justice Blake, said the long military service of the Gurkhas, their conspicuous acts of bravery and commitment and loyalty to the Crown meant there should be a "moral debt of honour" to them.

Surrounded by hundreds of Gurkhas outside court on Tuesday, actress Joanna Lumley, whose father served with the Brigade of Gurkhas for 30 years, said: "This day is more important than I can tell you because it gives our country a chance to right a great wrong."

In a damning judgement against the Ministry of Defence, the court decided the men were being treated unfairly and unlawfully. The judge said the policy used to remove them was misleading.

The judge said the MoD's advice to the Home Office on who gets settlement rights was confusing and resulted in "irrational and unlawful" restrictions being applied and the policy needed "urgent revisiting".

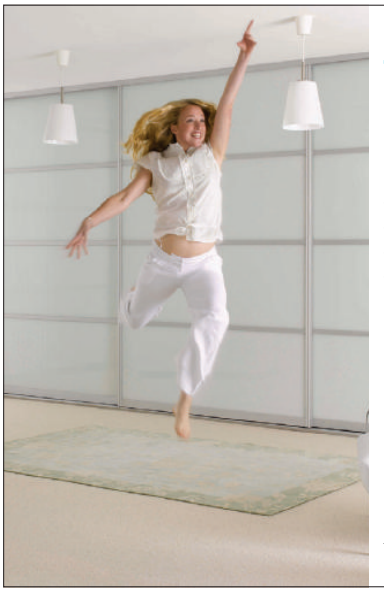
The judge pointed out the inconsistency that Falkland islanders were able to settle in the UK, yet Gurkha soldiers sent to protect them during the Falklands War were not.

Chhantra Rai, the chairman of the British Gurkha Welfare Society said: "This appears to be great news, but there is still three months to wait."

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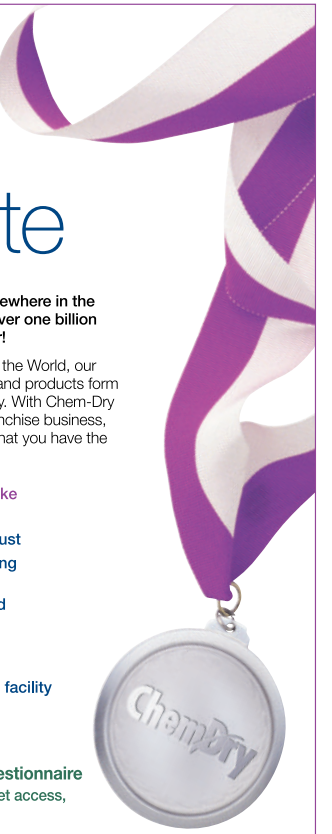
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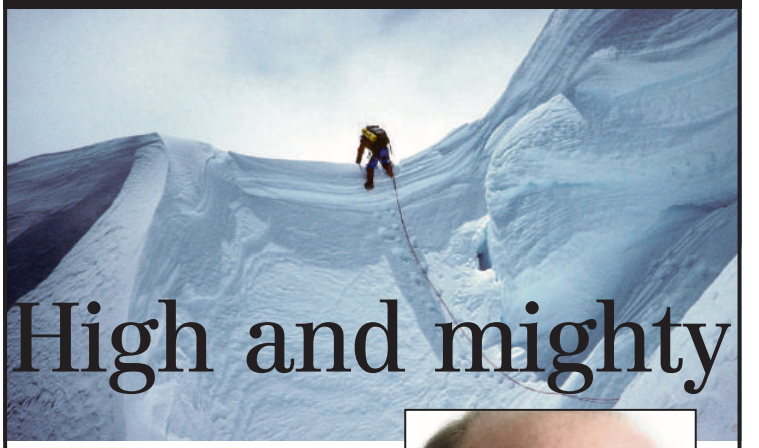
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Into The Void climber's stunning show



High and mighty

By **JANE CONNOLLY**
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

A SPELLBOUND audience will transported to the summit of the world's most challenging mountains in the company of expert climber Simon Yates.

Mr Yates is an accomplished mountaineer who has conquered many of the toughest peaks, in some cases becoming the first person to make the ascent.

In his new touring show, Beyond The Void, which visits Tunbridge Wells this weekend, he shares his extraordinary experiences.

"The show is about anecdotes really, a lot of which are fairly humorous, about my time as a mountaineer," he said.

"It's about images and experiences from a lot of places around the world, which I think I can safely say most people are never going to visit.

"A lot of images are unique because I'm climbing mountains that have not been climbed before."

Mr Yates, 45, grew up in a Leicestershire village and was introduced to rock climbing on a school trip at the age of 14.

Since then he has become a respected member of the mountaineering community – but his career was nearly cut short when a trip to Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes in 1985 went spectacularly wrong.

The incident would become the subject of a bestselling book and subsequently the Bafta-winning film Touching The Void.

When climbing partner Joe Simpson fell into a crevasse, Mr Yates was faced with an agonising choice. Believing Mr Simpson to be dead, he could either cut the rope that connected them or allow the weight of Mr Simpson's body to drag him to his own death.

He decided to cut the rope, an action which saved his own life and ultimately Mr Simpson's, as he survived the fall and eventually managed to drag himself to safety, despite a badly broken leg.

"I wasn't scared off by it. It was a harrowing experience but it had a happy outcome," Mr Yates said.



SIMON YATES: Touring show visits Tunbridge Wells this weekend

"I don't know that I necessarily thought that at the time, but subsequently I've realised it had a very happy ending because we both walked away. Since then I've lost friends through mountaineering accidents. But at the time I was young and dedicated, so I just kept doing it."

Now a father of two young children, Mr Yates admitted he has become more cautious but is determined to continue pursuing his passion. He has just returned from making the first ascent of Monte Iorana in Tierra del Fuego, off the southern tip of South America, and has more adventures in the pipeline.

"I know why I do it – I enjoy it and it's a mental and physical challenge in an extreme environment," he said.

"Through that challenge I feel I reconnect with the natural world, something I guess we are disconnected from in our urbanised lives."

Beyond The Void is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, from 8pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £14. To book, call 01892 530613/532072 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

News and sport updated daily online
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Governors agree two Kent institutions should combine

New era in education with merger of colleges

SOUTH Kent College is to merge with West Kent College in a bid to turn around the fortunes of an institution attacked as "inadequate" by inspectors.

By **CHRIS BRITCHER**
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

The decision was made at a meeting of college governors on Monday and signals one of the biggest changes in the institution's history.

If given Government approval, the Tonbridge-based West Kent College's management team will take over the running of the college as of August 1, 2009.

The move means the multi-million pound campus planned for Ashford is likely to become the new college's HQ, switching from its base in Folkestone.

Changes

South Kent College operates out of Ashford, Dover and Folkestone, but has already hinted that the more than 14,000 full- and part-time students it serves could see changes to existing sites and the services offered.

The Ofsted report in June revealed the college was also £1.6m in the red.

Since the damning report, the governors have drafted in Monica Box as an interim principal on a one-year deal to stabilise the college.

She will lead the liaison with West Kent chiefs as it looks to restructure ahead of the merger.

Mrs Box said: "Raising standards is our priority and a merger with West Kent will help us drive up the quality of service we offer."

The merger decision signals an end to the possibility of an alliance with Lewes-based Sussex Downs College.

Mrs Box said: "The curriculum offered by West Kent and South Kent will complement each other, yet allow for economies of scale that will help improve this college's finances."

West Kent College principal Bill Fearon said it would operate a "multi-centred" college across the five main towns of Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Dover, Folkestone and Ashford.

Ashford and Tonbridge will be the two main centres "in the foreseeable future".

He said the current West Kent and South Kent managers would form a new team to be deployed across all centres "as appropriate".

All of which suggests the likelihood of redundancy in some roles as the two operations merge. Staff at South Kent are being kept informed of developments.

SKC remains heavily dependant on support from the Learning and Skills Council, which administers funding for further education, with governors agreeing that "business support departments will undertake detailed work to achieve expenditure savings if the college is to be in the best financial state to benefit from the merger".

Mr Fearon said: "A successful merger will create financial security for the new college, and by combining the staff expertise and resources of the two existing colleges, there will be great opportunity to develop new courses and training programmes for young people and adults alike.

"The strength of the merger lies in the range of very strong partners from the private and public sectors who are keen to invest in the new college.

"The four universities in Kent are all keen to work with the new college to further develop higher education and advanced level training across all five towns in the West and South. There is also opportunity to develop courses for adults in significant towns like Deal, Sevenoaks and Edenbridge."

Chairman of governors and county councillor Bryan Cope said: "We were determined our decision would preserve the strong local identity of further education provision in Folkestone, Dover and Ashford.

Impressed

"We've been very impressed by the quality of the detail in the proposals from both West Kent and Sussex Downs.

"But in the end, we decided West Kent would secure the best outcome for the learners of South Kent.

"After all, our mission statement says: South Kent College, putting learners first."

Final approval for the merger rests with the Secretary of State, and SKC hopes this will be granted in spring 2009.

News and sport updated daily
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Hospital's backing

PLANS for a £20 million community hospital in Dover have been backed by the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust.

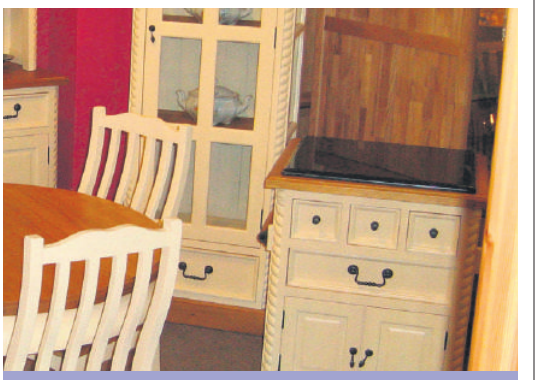
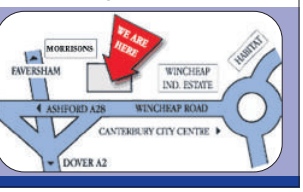
At a meeting last week members agreed with the scheme put forward by the Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT). They will now work with the PCT and GP consortium on deciding what services should be included.

The hospital, to be built next to the health centre in Maison Dieu Road, will provide outpatient services including a birthing unit, chemotherapy and paediatric services. Buckland Hospital will continue to operate until the community hospital is open.

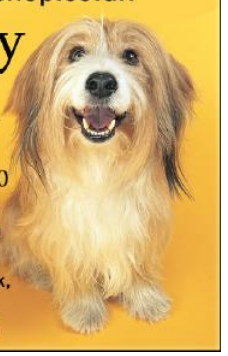
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Clipper fire blamed on electrical fault

A FAULTY vacuum cleaner probably started the fire that ripped through the Cutty Sark, police revealed this week, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

The 19th century tea clipper was about a quarter of the way through a restoration project when flames tore through the vessel in May last year. Investigators found that an industrial vacuum cleaner had been left on for 48 hours before the blaze started.

"Evidence and CCTV footage of the fire in the 280ft ship show that it probably started towards the stern on the lower deck after the failure of a motor inside the industrial vacuum cleaner that was being used to remove waste," said Det Chief Insp Dave Garwood, of the Metropolitan Police.

He said there was no evidence the historic ship had been targeted by arsonists. Workers failed to notice the machine was still on partly because a fire safety plan was not being properly followed.

Complacency had made the possibility of a fire more likely, DCI Garwood told a press conference on Tuesday.

The 16-month investigation was carried out by police, the London Fire Brigade and Forensic Science Services.

Fortunately, much of the 138-year-old ship had been removed from its dry dock at Greenwich for conservation or storage.



CHARRED: Cutty Sark after the fire

Because of the fire the cost of the work has now risen to £35 million. Parts of the ship were moved to Chatham Historic Dockyard including three masts.

Ian Bell, technical manager for Cutty Sark Enterprises, is leading the team carrying out the conservation and storage of the ship.

He said: "Work has started on some of the pieces but it is weather dependant. Chatham is housing everything used to propel the ship through the water. We are going to make sure they are 100 per cent correct so we can get the best life out of them."

The ship, which was launched in 1869, is the world's last surviving tea clipper and used to sail between Britain and China.

Mr Bell said all original and delicate structures from the clipper were being kept in airtight containers under cover.

"There are 528 planks from the hull in storage in an aircraft hanger," he said.

"Chatham has some of the original features but they are painted, robust items and pretty much bomb-proof."

Once the pieces have been brought up to scratch they will be taken back to Greenwich to be fitted onto the ship, he said.

The restoration work is expected to be completed in 2010, when the Cutty Sark will be raised and suspended so visitors can walk underneath.

The Cutty Sark Trust, which owns the ship, said it would be speaking to its lawyers following the findings of the investigation.



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Main Course
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Deserts
Bread and butter pudding with fresh fruit filling and a hint of orange
Fresh fruit salad with a cointreau crème Anglais
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images of Kent

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Groombridge is tourist favourite

PUBLIC gardens near Tunbridge Wells have been voted among the best in Britain.

Only Kew Gardens in west London and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh ranked higher in a worldwide poll of tourists than Groombridge Place Gardens and Enchanted Forest.

Director Roly Rickcord said: "This is the most amazing compliment and we are absolutely delighted.

"We always make sure there is plenty for our visitors to see, and the combination of the formal gardens and the unusual woodland gardens in the forest seems a winning one."

The sheltered walled gardens of Groombridge Place were designed in the 17th century by John Evelyn and are still laid out in the same style today.

The worldwide poll was conducted by travel website TripAdvisor.com.

Molière is set to 'write' the waves

SEAFRANCE'S new superferry the SeaFrance Molière has been brought into full car ferry mode.

The ship, named after the French playwright, was refitted to ensure better manoeuvrability around the docks in Dover and Calais. It was also fitted with stylish passenger areas.

The SeaFrance Molière will replace the Renoir and Manet and will offer 15 daily return crossings with prices starting from £25 each way.

SeaFrance's managing director, Robin Wilkins, said: "We are extremely excited about the introduction of the SeaFrance Molière into full service.

"This quality addition to our fleet will increase our appeal and capacity, and further consolidate our position in the cross-Channel market."

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Festival is the pick of the bunch



By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BROGDALE Farm in Faversham is gearing up to once again host the UK's largest apple festival.

Fruit fans from across the country will visit the farm on the weekend of October 18, when they will be able to taste hundreds of different varieties of apples and pears.

Entertainment will also be provided by way of live music, a classic car display, a police dog show and more.

Marketing and events co-ordinator Kimberly Edmed was confident the festival would be as popular as in previous years.

She said: "It's a celebration of our apples, and as Brogdale is the home of the National Fruit Collection we have a huge variety for people to taste and buy.

"I think a lot of people are surprised at just how many different types of fruit there are, many of which they will never be able to buy from the supermarket.

"The festival is a great opportunity for them to try some of these rare varieties. It's been hugely successful in the past and we're sure it will be again."

Expert

Visitors to the festival will also be able to taste and buy more than 20 beers, as well as watch cookery demonstrations by top Kent chef Scott Anderson.

Tours of the orchards will be available with guides able to give expert advice on how to grow fruit in your garden.

New at Brogdale for this year's festival is the plant centre where visitors can buy apple trees and other plants.

Events and marketing manager Sally Roger encouraged people who had never been to the festival before to give it a try.

She said: "We are pleased Brogdale is once again hosting the UK's largest apple festival this month.

"People are waking up to the thousands of delicious varieties of heritage apples that we will be showcasing and which they can taste and buy.

"There will also be lots to do for all the family, so come along for a great day out."

The National Fruit Collection is the largest in the world, with more than 3,500 varieties of apples, pears, cherries, plums and many other types of fruit, set in more than 160 acres of countryside.

Plans to move the collection to an alternative site in East Malling were rejected last year when the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) decided it was a vitally important part of Faversham.

For more information visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.

Ted gets plum job with top telly chef Valentine

CELEBRITY chef Valentine Warner's visit to Brogdale will be featured on the BBC Two programme What to Eat Now.

The show, which features Warner picking his own favourite seasonal ingredients before turning them into tasty meals, was filmed at the farm several weeks ago.

He was shown around Brogdale's National Fruit Collection by head guide Ted Hobday, who will also be featured on the programme.

Mr Hobday said: "The day started with a tour of the plum collection when we compared plum varieties including colour, taste and culinary aspects.

"Apart from the plum crop and the various merits of many varieties, time was also taken in talking to various experts about the horticultural requirements necessary for the successful cultivation of plums. The day finished with Valentine heading to the Brogdale tea shop kitchen which was made available after the other visitors had departed."



Picture: BBC

TV: Valentine Warner

While in the kitchen, Mr Hobday said Warner prepared a plum crumble that caused a disagreement between the chef and his new assistant.

He added: "Valentine insisted it should be served with cream, whereas I insisted custard was the only possible sauce to go with the crumble. Valentine relented and served it with custard, so we enjoyed a delicious English dessert."

• What to Eat Now is on BBC Two, at 8.30pm on Monday, October 6.

Wife finds solace in her husbands taken by cancer

A WOMAN who lost two partners to a cancer caused by asbestos says they are both still looking after her as spirits, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Avril Gooding-Grant, 51, from Hoo, says her interest in the paranormal grew following the death of her husband Chris in 2001.

Both he and second partner Les Alford were killed by the industrial disease mesothelioma, which manifests itself decades after its victims come into contact with asbestos.

Mrs Gooding-Grant said: "Knowing they are both here with me makes it a lot easier for me to deal with things.

"Chris' energy is residual, which means he visits me, but I can feel Les' presence 24 hours a day because he actually lived in the house I'm in now. They're both a great comfort. I used to belong to a spiritualist church in Gillingham and the resident medium did a reading for me a while back.

"He told me Chris and Les both still loved me and were looking after me."

She now has a new man in her life, and admits he finds the situation difficult to deal with.

Mrs Gooding-Grant said: "He doesn't like to talk about it because he thinks it's a bit spooky. But Chris and Les were two of the most wonderful people you could ever wish to meet. I love the fact they're still around and I don't care if other people don't believe me."





DEPARTED: Avril with Chris (left) and Les

Mr Grant came into contact with the killer dust when working as an electrician more than 40 years ago, while Mr Alford was a lorry driver and mechanic for 30 years.

Mrs Gooding-Grant received £40,000 in compensation following Mr Grant's death, but says that money has almost run out.

She is still waiting to see if she will receive a payout as a result of Mr Alford's death as solicitors are unable to agree on where he may have come into contact with the asbestos.

If ongoing tests conclude he inhaled the harmful particles while working for the long-since bankrupt Fuller Electric Ltd, which is likely, then there will be nobody for Mrs Gooding-Grant to claim a payout from.

OAP pair lost on way to hospital

TWO elderly women who were reported missing after they failed to arrive at a hospital appointment in Maidstone have been found.

Mari Vesey, who is known as Yvonne, 80 and Rachel Hughes, who is known as Sheila, 76, from Ightham, near Sevenoaks, were found safe in their car in Dorking, Surrey at around 4pm on Wednesday, police said.

Inspector Simon Wilshaw said: "At the moment we don't know exactly why they are in Dorking, but a likely explanation is that they have got lost on their journey."

The women were reported missing by one of their daughters after they left for Summerfield Hospital at 1.45pm on Tuesday and failed to return in the evening.

The daughter of Mrs Vesey said: "My mother and aunt are very confused as a result of their experience. They spent the night in hospital and will have further assessments."

Squirrels will go for any old rope

CONSERVATIONISTS have launched an appeal for natural rope to provide climbing equipment for a family of red squirrels.

The Wildwood Trust, which is based near Canterbury, said the endangered creatures are good climbers and respond well to the natural design of their enclosures.

A spokesman asked for natural fibre rope such as Manila, sisal or hemp that has not been treated with any chemicals or painted to be donated to the centre, which is devoted to breeding indigenous British wildlife such as wolves, beaver, red squirrels and wild boar.

The squirrels who live in the park are part of a breeding programme to eventually release the animals in Anglesey in Wales.

If you have some natural rope lying around that could be used to keep the squirrels entertained in their enclosures call Wildwood on 01227 712 111.

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A day in the life of Kent Highway Services

The teams at Kent Highway Services carry out a huge variety of tasks to keep Kent moving, but many people don't realise just what it is that we do on a daily basis.

David Hall is Head of Transport and Development at Kent Highway Services and his team is responsible for supporting regeneration and improving access to key services through transport.



What's the purpose of your role?

I lead a team responsible for transport and development planning initiatives and projects across Kent. Among other things, we work with developers to make sure that there is appropriate infrastructure for new developments and we work with bus and rail companies to better integrate public transport.

The work we do is certainly varied – it ranges from dealing with large planning applications such as Eastern Quarry in Kent Thameside, to major public transport schemes like Fastrack and local speed limit reviews and traffic calming schemes.

How does your working day normally begin?

I begin my working day at around 7.30 and spend about an hour dealing with correspondence and planning the rest of the day. Our office is very busy and once it gets to 8:30, it's hard to find any quiet time to do this!

What does an average day normally entail?

The work is so varied, there is no typical day. However, I frequently meet with my team leaders to make sure I'm up-to-speed with any issues there might be and I regularly meet with Keith Ferrin, the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, to keep him informed about transport and planning issues. Talking to bus operators is another regular part of my role. It's important that I work closely with them to make sure that Kent is at the forefront for new investment from the private sector. I'm closely involved with the Kent Freedom Pass scheme, which is proving hugely successful.

I do spend a significant amount of time preparing for Highways Advisory Boards (HAB); checking reports and placing items on the agenda. It might not sound glamourous, but the HAB is a really important tool to deal with issues that affect local communities, so I take it very seriously.

On a local level, I work with district and borough councils, as well as Councillors to tackle issues affecting communities. For example, I'm currently chairing the A258 working group which is trying to improve the crash record between Deal and Dover.

What do you find most difficult about your job?

It's intensely frustrating when Kent Highway Services gets the blame because drivers are speeding. We spend a lot of money on traffic calming, but the problem often lies with driver behaviour, not the tarmac! We can change a speed limit, but it makes no difference if drivers don't take responsibility for their actions behind the wheel.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Definitely my team. We have to make a lot of difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions, but the whole team is always very professional.

History on the road

When most people think about historical features in Kent, highway structures are not usually the first thing that springs to mind. However, did you know that the Kent highway network contains over 2700 highway structures and several of them have listed status? Despite their age, they're still a vital part of Kent's road system, and need careful maintenance.

Two prime examples are the Victorian Royal Parade in Ramsgate and Wye bridge.



Royal Parade

The Royal Parade is a road rising up from the harbour, which is supported by a brick aqueduct with marine businesses located in the arches under the parade. We've recently restored 1230 balusters and 143 pier pieces. The viaduct's deck structure and terracotta keystones were also restored a few years ago. It's been a famous part of the Ramsgate skyline for many years, as well as being an important part of the road structure.

In the same way, Wye bridge is a key part of the road network and it was originally built in 1683 to carry the road across the River Stour to Ashford. This structure is Grade 2 listed and it lies within a conservation area. A structural assessment led to traffic restrictions being introduced to protect it and when the decision was made to widen it, we used a sensitive design to keep it in line with its history.



Wye Bridge

Have a look next time you're out and about – you could be driving over history!

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Thanet

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	10.10.08	Manston Road, Ramsgate	Road closure – gas mains works
Current	27.2.09	A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate	Temporary traffic lights – energy supply works

Sevenoaks

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	15.10.08	Castle Farm Road, Shoreham	Road closure – carriageway works

Maidstone

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	19.10.08	Rocky Hill, Maidstone	Lane closure – developer works

Gravesend

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	3.11.08	Thames Way, Northfleet	Temporary traffic lights – water mains works

Tonbridge & Malling

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	9.11.08	Trench Road, Tonbridge	Temporary traffic lights – gas mains works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

WIN! family tickets to Billy SMART'S CIRCUS



UK's legendary circus comes to Rochester

IT WAS in 2004 that BILLY SMART'S CIRCUS – a truly legendary name who is part of entertainment history – was brought back to life after a gap of more than 30 years.

In its new format, the circus sets up at Jackson's recreation ground, in Rochester, from Tuesday to Sunday, October 21-26.

The 'old' Billy Smart's ceased touring after 1971. As a 5,000-seat 'giant of the road', the original circus became legendary for style as well as size.

The new version is on a scale that makes it practical and economic to revive the great name – and the high quality and reputation – of Smart's.

The new version has been voted 'BEST CIRCUS IN BRITAIN' by members of the Circus Friends' Association, the fan-club of circus experts.

There are no animals, but innovation and quality are at the top of the agenda for the international company of human performers.

The 2008 show features:

- Flying trapeze stars The FLYING BULL DANCERS, featuring the triple somersault
- Modest but amazing aerialist ROMAIN CABON from Brittany, multiple award-winner at French circus festivals
- Cheeky, cheerful Mexican clown CHICO RICO
- Hilarious and daring ALEX the FIRE-MAN from Holland
- From Kazakhstan the exciting and exotic TIMUR YAKOBOVI TROUPE climbing, balancing and swinging
- The mystifying illusions and the ventriloquism of ROSS PRESTO

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We have 15 family tickets to giveaway. To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Billy Smarts Circus Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Q) When is Billy Smart's Circus Coming to Rochester?

No purchase necessary. The closing date is October 14, 2008.

For our full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



Patients back in killer bug ward

A HOSPITAL has reopened after a superbug outbreak that led to the death of one of its patients.

Livingstone Hospital in Dartford was given a deep clean and shut to new admissions following four cases of Clostridium difficile in September.

Dr Mathi Chandrakumar, director of the Kent Health Protection Unit, said: "My team has held meetings with staff at the hospital and I am satisfied that the necessary measures to control the infection have been taken.

"We are continuing to monitor the situation and to support NHS West Kent in the work they are doing."

Dr Chandrakumar urged patients and visitors to ensure they washed their hands before and after visiting all hospitals.

KOS Media has been running a hand-hygiene campaign alongside the NHS in Kent to highlight ways to prevent superbug outbreaks.

Experts believe one of the simplest and effective ways to help in the battle against superbugs is simply washing your hands with warm water and soap and using the alcogel provided in wards and healthcare centres.

The 30-bed hospital specialises in rehabilitative care for older people, who can be particularly at risk from the diarrhoea that C-diff causes.

New hope in fight against pollution

Scientists' invention to help reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

GREEN technology capable of drastically reducing the UK's carbon dioxide emissions has been developed by two Kent scientists.

Accelerated Carbonation Technology (ACT) is the result of years of work by Dr Colin Hills and Dr Paula Carey, both of whom are based at the University of Greenwich at Medway.

Their invention converts contaminated land and industrial waste into harmless pebbles, capturing large amounts of carbon dioxide in the process.

Should ongoing trials be successful, the scientists believe the UK could benefit from 500,000 tonnes of the harmful greenhouse gas being captured from household waste alone.

Their Carbon8 firm has won a string of accolades for the innovation, and has also been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards. The winners will be announced on October 23.

Dr Carey said: "It's fantastic to be nominated let alone win awards.

"Last month we received £40,000 in funding for winning the Shell Springboard awards, as well as a trip to the Ferrari factory in Italy.

"To have independent recognition is important to us because we have been at the pilot stage for quite a long time. Now we're on the brink of some proper independent applications."



REDUCTION: New invention could cut emissions at coal-fired power stations like the one planned for Kingsnorth

Waste products from energy plants, recycling plants and other industries naturally react with carbon dioxide over time, but the ACT technology rapidly accelerates this process and mixes the resultant material with other waste to create new materials for the building trade.

The energy firm E.ON, which has come under attack for its plans for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, is currently harnessing Carbon8's technology at its centralised heat and power plant in Sittingbourne.

Dr Carey said: "We have a problem with climate change. It's a fact and there is nothing we can do to stop it, so we just have to try to slow it.

"The problem is coal-fired power stations produce so much carbon dioxide we wouldn't know what to do with the materials we could create from it.

"We would be in danger of flooding the market, which isn't very strong in the current economic climate anyway.

"However, because we are working with E.ON at the moment, it might strengthen our case to work with Kingsnorth in the future.

"It would be better to capture some carbon dioxide there than none at all."

An E.ON spokesman said if plans for a new power station are approved, the firm would be likely to deal with the carbon dioxide using a process called 'amine scrubbing'.

This would see the waste undergo a chemical reaction before it is released into the atmosphere, with the carbon dioxide pumped underground.

• ***For more information on Carbon8 visit www.c8s.co.uk.***

Boatbuilder to save the Queen

A £1.8 MILLION contract to rebuild the hull of the historic Medway Queen paddle steamer was signed on Friday.

Chatham MP Jonathan Shaw and Mayor of Medway Cllr David Carr were on hand at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, to witness the landmark occasion.

The contract was signed by Bristol boatbuilder David Abels, whose firm will carry out the work, and Medway Queen Preservation Society chairman John Kempton.

The Medway Queen made a record seven crossings to rescue soldiers from Dunkirk, France, during World War Two.

After being taken out of service in 1963, she narrowly avoided being scrapped by a Belgian ship-breaker and has sunk twice.





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Getting animated gives asylum kids their own voice



YOUNG asylum seekers harnessed the power of animation to tell others of their experiences in travelling to the UK.

The teenagers were able to use film-making equipment at Canterbury Christ Church University thanks to a partnership with the Kent Refugee Action Network (Kran).

Animator Dan Richards, who helped the youngsters with their projects, said they had important tales to tell.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

He said: "The young people chose animation because it is a powerful way of getting their message across.

"These teenagers all travelled to the UK from war-torn countries such as Afghanistan and Eritrea. Their films highlight the pressures, frustrations and worries they face, and help the local community understand their own culture in a unique way."

The project, entitled Home to Home, saw the asylum seekers write, animate and edit four films entitled Our Country, Coming to England, Kamran's Story and Small Rabbits.

Screenings of the short films will be held at the Riverside Youth Centre, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury, between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday. The project cost £6,712 to develop, with the majority provided by the Media Box fund for creative teenagers.

Mr Richards said: "Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been forced by people or circumstances to travel alone to a country very different from their own.

"They had no voice in their own countries and have had little opportunity to show their views and feelings here.

"Yet these teenagers are intelligent, passionate and brave. Through their eyes we can see our own culture from a fresh standpoint."

Topics covered in the films range from the story of a young Afghan's life and his journey to the UK, to a tale of three rabbits who escape danger in their homeland and therefore mirror the reality of their creators' lives.

One of the pieces also contains a comparison of Iran and the UK through the eyes of a young Iranian.

Mr Richards said: "Short animated films are a perfect vehicle for these young people, who have much to say but are wary of drawing too much attention to themselves."



MAKING MOVIES: Dan Richards (front row, third left) with young asylum seekers who took part in the project

Upon entering the UK, asylum-seeking children are placed into community centres by social services until they are moved on to new homes.

Kran supports social services by teaching the youngsters everything from basic life skills such as cooking and cleaning, to the English language.

They also organise meetings with community liaison officers in order to teach them basic laws that may be different from their own counties. For more information, visit www.kran.org.uk.

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Wealthy hit by crunch as well



CAUSE FOR CONCERN: Michael Fallon MP

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AFFLUENT Sevenoaks is being hit as hard by the credit crunch as anywhere else in the county, says Tory MP Michael Fallon.

Mr Fallon said he had noticed a large increase in the number of people attending his advice surgeries with financial problems and that he expected the rise to continue.

He said: "Just because Sevenoaks is a wealthy area of Kent it does not mean the people living here are not suffering the effects of the credit crunch as much as anyone else.

"I represent quite a mixed area and there are pockets of poverty in Swanley as well as in north Sevenoaks.

"But there are also people who are going to be hit hard by cutbacks in the City. Residents in west Kent will be hit harder than those in east Kent because there are more commuters here who could find themselves out of work."

Mr Fallon said the main concern among his constituents was debt built up throughout the year due to rising food and fuel costs.

In denial

He added: "In my 11 years as MP for Sevenoaks I have never known a time when so many people were having difficulties with money.

"I noticed the increase in people coming to my advice surgeries to talk to me about it before Christmas, and the Citizens Advice Bureau has told me the same.

"The main advice I give them is to seek professional help and to sort out their priorities.

"A lot of people stay in denial about their debt problems for a long time, but the sooner they recognise what is wrong and work to rectify it the better."

According to the 2007 annual survey of hours and earnings, the population of Sevenoaks contains higher than average numbers of managers and senior officials (19.2 per cent) and administrative and secretarial workers (19.5 per cent).

It also has a lower than average number of people who work in the plant and machinery industry (13.7 per cent).

As a member of the treasury committee in the House of Commons, Mr Fallon knows better than most about the current state of Britain's economy.

He said: "It's in a bad way and things appear to be getting worse, which is very concerning, but the real worry is that people can't see an end to the problems. We have to get more confidence back into the system, and that involves having banks we can trust. They need to improve the way they protect people's savings, and the authorities need to pump more money into the system."

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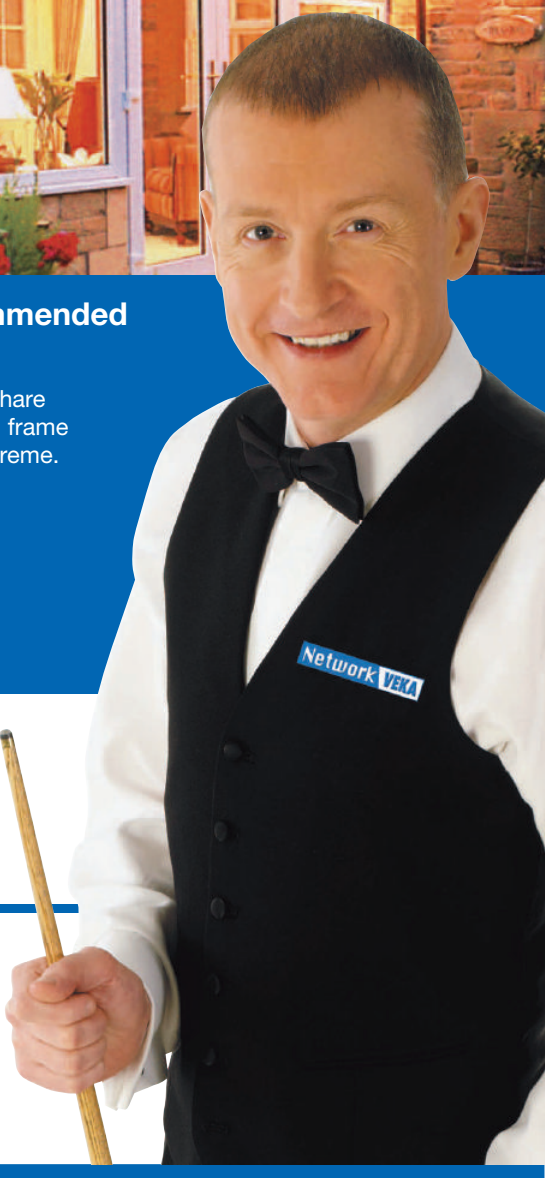
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By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Code breaker

Author lifts the lid on life at Bletchley Park during WWII

AN INSIDER'S insight into the secret wartime world of the country's major code-breaking centre – Bletchley Park – has been given by a Kent author.

James Thirsk, who is one of the few remaining staff of the Buckinghamshire establishment still alive, worked as a traffic analyst attached to Hut 6 at Station X during World War Two.



The 94-year-old, who lives near Tonbridge, reveals in his new book – Bletchley Park: An Inmate's Story – what it was like working alongside renowned mathematicians and cryptographers such as Alan Turing.

Bletchley Park was most famous for discovering the secrets of the German Enigma code machine.

Mr Thirsk told KOS Media how he helped to produce the high-level intelligence which has been credited as being vital to the Allied war effort and is thought by many to have shortened the conflict.

"Parts of it were exciting, but not all the time," he said. "It could not keep me excited for four years.

"There were lots of set-backs and gloomy periods but it was very interesting when it was going well."

The retired librarian, from Yorkshire, volunteered for the Intelligence Corps in 1941, with no idea where he would end up.

In 1942 he found himself in the "strange" world centred around Bletchley, among nearly 10,000 civilians and Armed Forces men and women and working shifts 24-hours a day.

Asked whether if, with the secretive nature of the work, he was aware of the importance of what they were doing, he said: "We knew how important it was because our particular branch knew about the Enigma and knew it had been broken.

"The majority of people there were doing more routine jobs and would not have known because the secret was kept so close.

"The generals like Montgomery would probably get information based on the Enigma messages but only he and his right-hand man alone would know about the source."

Cracking the Nazis' Enigma codes is thought to be among the greatest breakthroughs at Bletchley, near Cambridge.

Mr Thirsk was keen to pay tribute to the code-breakers in Poland who originally decrypted messages from the machine in 1932, and passed on their discoveries to Britain and France after the invasion.

"Alan Turing was a mathematical genius and did amazing work in breaking or decrypting this German ciphers machine, which they thought was impregnable.

"But the team at Bletchley proved it was not, and a lot of useful information came from it and was of great use to the Allies," he said.

Turing, the 'father of modern computer science', also built the Colossus computer at Bletchley.

"People think it was something to do with the Enigma but it was devised as a type of computer to solve another cipher the Germans were using called the 'Fish' ciphers," he said.

Mr Thirsk's work as a traffic analyst involved working through the logs kept by people, mostly women, all over the country who intercepted enemy radio messages.

He said this worked alongside direction finding, which involved locating Nazi army divisions by listening to radio frequencies, and those decrypting messages to give Allied commanders in the field a better sense of enemy movements.

"So the unit I was in knew more about the general set up of the German armed resources than they did in Germany themselves," he said.

The author also gives a touching account of how he met his wife, Joan Watkins, at Bletchley.

She was serving as an Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) girl, but their courtship was made difficult because as a company sergeant major it was deemed improper for her, as an officer, to associate with him.

But they married in September, 1945, and Joan, now 86, is a retired Oxford history don who is still writing books and giving lectures.



INMATE: Jimmy Thirsk (left) in 1942 and Bletchley Park, where the deciphered the Nazi Enigma code was deciphered

• ***The book, published by Galago Books, was launched on Wednesday, costs £16.96 is available to order from bookshops or online at www.galagobooks.co.uk.***







Emphysema sufferer's photographic display after triumphant five-week ride

Lung disease not journey's end for Jean

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ARTIST who suffers from emphysema took part in a five-week bike ride to prove lung disease does not make exercise impossible.

Jean Fraser hopes other patients will gain confidence from her Whitstable-to-Hastings coastal journey, the route of which was the inspiration behind a new exhibition.

Photographs of people, places and things encountered by Ms Fraser will be on show at the Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre, Whitstable, until October 21.

She said: "I want to show people that exercise is essential to be able to control and stabilise illnesses like emphysema.

"Sufferers can be very fearful of being out of breath, so many have panic attacks and do not do any exercise. They fall into a vicious downward spiral and end up killing themselves a lot quicker.

"I also want to raise the profile of lung disease generally because the World Health Organisation says it is set to kill one in three people by 2020, which is huge.

"You obviously have to work harder when you exercise if you have it, but it can be done. People who take it seriously are often fitter than people who do not have lung disease but do no exercise."

Ms Fraser, from Whitstable, was a state-registered art therapist working at an NHS mental health centre when she was diagnosed with emphysema in 2000.

She had given up smoking 15 years earlier but believes that may still have been the cause, although she had also worked in building projects in the past without wearing a mask. Pictures taken on the bike ride were initially posted on her website www.drawingbreath.org, but the exhibition will feature entirely new work taken since she completed the challenge.

Ms Fraser said: "I found myself out of breath quite a lot and if I had to go up a steep hill I would have to push it for about 40 paces, then stop for a two-minute break.

"It was quite euphoric to finally finish after five weeks. The final straight was downhill into Hastings and I actually felt rather emotional. It was like: 'Wow, I've done it'."

Emphysema is a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which in 2005 killed 11,302 women – about 400 more than breast cancer.

Drawing Breath Recycled, which has been funded by Arts Council England, will be on at the Horsebridge until October 21.

For more information, call 01227 281174 or visit www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk.









DRAWING BREATH: The five-week cycle ride by emphysema sufferer Jean Fraser, main picture, has resulted in a photographic exhibition featuring the things, places and people she encountered along the way, including 84-year-old stroke survivor and fellow cyclist Connie Meesor, left, from Broadstairs

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Ultimate survivor Nicole in line for top Cosmo award

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A TEENAGER who has raised more than £43,000 for charity despite being wheelchair-bound, blind and virtually deaf has been nominated for a national award.

Nicole Dryburgh, 19, from Whitstable, has the chance to be named one of Cosmopolitan magazine's ultimate women of the year for her steadfast determination in the face of severe disabilities.

The teenager was diagnosed with cancer when she was just 11 and has since suffered a brain haemorrhage and a stroke.

But Nicole's numerous setbacks have not dampened her spirits, and earlier this year she was named Britain's most inspiring fundraiser.

Mum Jackie said her daughter would be delighted to win the Cosmopolitan award, for more reasons than one.

She said: "Nicole likes the title of this one. She'd like to be known as an ultimate woman.

"She's always shocked when people nominate her for awards, though because she doesn't do her charity work for that. She does it because she enjoys helping people.

"Whenever she wins awards like this it is a bonus for me too, because it's nice for her to receive some thanks for all the hard work she puts in."

Operation

Nicole was a keen, competition-winning gymnast when an operation revealed a rare type of cancerous tumour close to her spine.

It was reduced through radiotherapy but two years later she suffered the brain haemorrhage which left her blind at 13.

This was followed by a debilitating stroke that confined her to a wheelchair, and late last year tumours were discovered behind Nicole's ears which have almost destroyed her hearing.

But when she is not visiting hospital specialists, the youngster is thinking up new and imaginative ways to raise money for charity.

Earlier this year she abseiled 100ft down the side of Kings College Hospital in London, where she has raised enough money for a new neuro-rehabilitation suite.

Nicole has even written a book, The Way I See It, which earlier this year was featured in The Mirror newspaper.

Ms Dryburgh said: "To be so young and have such devastating things happen to you, Nicole could have gone one way or the other.



DETERMINED: Nicole Dryburgh raised funds to build a new neuro-rehabilitation suite at Kings College Hospital in London

"She could have felt sorry for herself and asked 'why me?' but she has never said that and has always just got on with things.

"She doesn't want to sit around doing nothing, and setting herself fundraising targets gives her something to work towards.

"I'm very proud of her."

Nicole is now raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Visit her website at www.c-h-o-c.org.uk for more information.

The Cosmopolitan Ultimate Women of the Year Awards ceremony, hosted by Radio 1 DJ Fearne Cotton, takes place in Whitehall, London, on November 5.

Nicole is nominated in the Ultimate Survivor category.

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www.kentnews.co.uk



MARCH PAST: (l-r) Lord Lieutenant Allan Willet, General Sir Richard Dannatt and The Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Councillor Carolyn Parry

Top brass thanks TA parade crowd

THE head of the British Army has thanked the people of Kent for their help in celebrating 100 years of the Territorial Army.

Large crowds turned out for an anniversary parade through Canterbury followed by a service in the city's cathedral, on Saturday, September 6.

In a letter to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett, General Sir Richard Dannatt described it as a "wonderful display of support for our Armed Forces".

He added: "The balance of veterans, serving Territorials and cadets displayed a strong message of Kent's proud military history and of continuing into the future.

"Demonstrations of public support for the Armed Forces are incredibly important, especially when we are busy with two campaigns that are not perhaps widely understood by the general public.

"Despite the weather, the people of Kent showed their support in full."

The TA100 festivities were co-ordinated in the county by the Lieutenancy, with General Dannatt the most famous of many invited guests.

He saluted current and former servicemen as they marched past him in the town centre, and also spoke during the service.

The letter continued: "I would just like to say how much it meant for me to take part in an event like that, as part of a guard in front of cheering crowds.

"It made me feel so proud."

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WOMEN for MEN

LIVELY female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 TXT

TALL, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wttm a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 TXT

CONSIDERATE, honest female, 28, 5ft, fair hair, single Mum, likes staying active, cinemas, seeking kind, honest, fun, caring, outgoing male for love. Box 444511 TXT

PETITE, dark-haired, blue-eyed female, 30, fun and friendly, bright and bubbly. Bored of being single, looking for a lovely man to take me out!. Box 895349 TXT P

EASYGOING female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

ATTRACTIVE and friendly female, 36, caring, considerate, outgoing, loves to travel and walks on beaches, seeks similar male for potential long term romance. Box 442392 TXT

BRUNETTE female, 36yrs old, single mum, enjoys socialising, DIY, romantic moments and family activities, WLTM a male with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Box 442393 TXT

FUN-LOVING single mum, 37, 5ft8, loves going out, staying in and having fun, WLTM a male to be my knight in shining armour. Box 443290 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters!. Box 908053 TXT P

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

CUTE, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

BRIGHT bubbly curvy female, 38, a teacher, loves reading, travelling, swimming, cooking, WLTM adventurous male to share life and hopefully more with. Tunbridge Wells. Box 444628 TXT

NURSE, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male. Box 431557 TXT

LOVELY single mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 TXT P

HONEST caring lady, 43, single mum, medium build, blue-green eyes, streaked blonde hair, likes swimming, reading, cooking, wining, dining, WLTM fun-loving male for love. Box 444211 TXT

PROFESSIONAL female, 43, enjoys dancing, walking, reading and cooking, WLTM an intelligent professional male, who can hold a good conversation, for a relationship. Box 444282 TXT

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 TXT

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 TXT P

HARD working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751 TXT

BUBBLY blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 888162 TXT

SPIRITUAL 44yr old female, enjoy gardening, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTM a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803 TXT

HI I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 P

COMPASSIONATE, attractive female, 45, 5ft6, big build, red hair, blue eyes, n/s, enjoys good food, country pubs, cinema and weekends away, WLTM a similar male. Box 444743

EASYGOING female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, South African origin, tall female, 45, long dark hair, seeking caring male, for friendship and hopefully more!. Box 444232 TXT P

HI! I'm 45, 5ft6, largish build, blue eyes, non-smoker/driver, devoted Mum, seeking male to share life with, walks, beaches and more. Canterbury. Box 440592

AFRICAN descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTM gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998 TXT

FUN extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends. Box 442905 TXT

44YR old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with!. Box 436810 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

CARING, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead. Likes cinema, theatre, walking. WLTM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 TXT

SLIM, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 TXT

HI, I'm Laura, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLTM gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love!. Box 440397 TXT

CHEERFUL, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us!. Box 893562 TXT

49Y/O female, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, hard working brunette, 52, 5ft3, blue eyes, enjoys music, walking and travelling, WLTM a honest and tender male to share love and laughter with. Box 444748

INDEPENDENT, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTM a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

VERY young looking female, 53, 5ft6, slim, hazel eyes, wicked SOH, loves the coast, sea, country, socialising, seeking fun-loving man for laughter and love. Box 444138 TXT

HI, I'm Sue, 53, 5ft11, size 14, n/s, enjoys walks and meals in/out, seeking a male to find happiness with. Box 443934 TXT

CURVY & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTM similar loving male. Box 443642

HI, I'm a kind female, 52, slim, 5ft3, dark hair. I like music, dancing, reading, coast, countryside. Seeking kind, genuine man, 45-60, for LTR. Box 430032 TXT

SUE, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, wttm a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309 TXT

AFFECTIONATE tactile bubbly woman, young 56, 5'7", blonde, curvy, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. Box 888680 TXT

OUT going, friendly woman, 56, blonde hair/blue eyes. I like doing fun things, having a laugh, walks, nights in and out, holidays etc. Box 444546 TXT

HI there, kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

MATURE female, 60, 5ft8, slim, ash blonde hair, enjoys eating out/in and going to the cinema, WLTM a trustworthy and kind male with gsoh. Box 444586 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady with nice smile, 62, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating in/out, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, gregarious, fun-loving non-smoker, 63, slim, 5ft4, very active, loves walks, the countryside, POI, animals; seeking similar male, caring, tactile, GSOH, to be my soulmate. Box 443644 TXT

WIDOW, 65, 5ft3. fair hair, slim-medium build, enjoys dancing, sports, badminton, table-tennis, walking, theatre, eating out, WLTM similar male, honest, caring, to enjoy life with. Box 443671 TXT

LOVELY female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

Women for women

GENUINE, compassionate female, 21yr old, long dark hair, blue eyes, enjoys going out, keeping fit and music, wltm a girl to have fun with. Box 442069 TXT

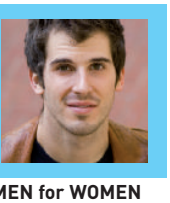
ATTRACTIVE, medium-built female, 23, 5ft3, blue eyes, enjoys crazy nights out and cosy nights in, WLTM female, 25-30, for friendship, perhaps relationship. Brighton. Box 441718 TXT

FUN-LOVING female, 28, in the Canterbury area, short brown hair, brown eyes, looking to meet fun-loving females for potential relationship. Box 889771 TXT

40-YEAR-OLD gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTM gay woman for friendship/relationship. Seaford. Box 894541 TXT P

52YRS, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 TXT

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MEN for WOMEN

ATTRACTIVE warehouse manager, 27, enjoys holidays, meals out/in, cinema, WLTM a fun and bubbly female to live life to the full with. Box 444656 TXT

HARD-WORKING male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH loveable guy, 30, 5ft8, stocky, blonde hair/blue eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, pubs, WLTM genuine girl for LTR. Box 441949 TXT

32YR old male, loves cooking, sport and going to the gym, WLTM a female to spend time with and see how things go. Box 444814 TXT

HI, I'm Mark, 32yrs, brown hair & eyes, muscular build, I'm easy-going, up for a laugh type of guy, looking for Mrs Right. Box 900019 TXT

HI, I'm big Mike, 35, 6ft8, blue eyes, gsoh, looking for a nice, bubbly female, 35-45, with great personality and gsoh for friendship/love. Box 444605 TXT

CIVIL servant, 36, caring, sharing, GSOH, brown eyes, short brown hair, 5ft11, likes the gym, pubs, travelling, reading, cooking, music, seeking female with GSOH. Box 444450 TXT P

SLIM, fit and fun builder, 36, 5ft10, enjoys snow boarding, WLTM a female to have some fun with and see where the road takes us. Box 444723 TXT

SELF-EMPLOYED male, 37, 6ft1, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoy the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLTM female for long term relationship. Box 443065 TXT

I'M Stuart, 36, 6ft6, short dark hair, stocky build, love squash, badminton, swimming, the gym, theatre, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TXT

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTM like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details!. Box 430440 TXT P

LEE, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wltm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, wttm nice, loyal, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship, Maidstone. Box 401597 TXT P

ATHLETIC male, 38, 5ft9, brown hair green eyes, likes the gym, stays in shape, into Salsa, wining/dining, theatre/cinema, walks, WLTM slim female for love. Box 444414 TXT

PLEASANT male, 39, 6ft tall, medium build, brown hair, enjoys rock music and socialising, wltm a genuine lady for a fun friendship, maybe romance later. Box 441326 TXT P

HI, I'm 40, down to earth, reliable, honest, like keeping fit, going out, meals out, watching movies, seeking similar lady for lasting love & happiness. Box 889945 TXT

HI, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, wltm an out-going female for good times. Box 899004 TXT

CARING single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking. WLTM lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex. Box 963530 TXT P

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, fun-loving male, 42, 5ft9, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out/in with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 TXT

I'M 42, medium build, 5ft10, not fat! lots of tattoos, blue eyes, shaved head, seeking a female 20-50 to start again and find love with. Box 440021 TXT

42YR old male, 5ft7, blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swimming and cosy nights in, seeking a damsel to rescue and be happy with. East Sussex. Box 443933 TXT P

I'M Phil, 43, 5'8, athletic build, good appearance, easygoing, nice guy, loyal, caring, seeking similar female 28-42 to find love with! Hastings. Box 443988 TXT P

VERY easygoing, laid-back male, 43, 5ft9, slim, hard-working, likes honesty, socialising, eating out, evenings in, seeking loving, caring, honest, sincere female for love. Box 443719 TXT

CARING and loving male, 43, average looks, self-employed, enjoys wild life, sci-fi and gardening, WLTM a petite female, 30-50, for a LTR. Box 444063 TXT

SPORTY male, 43, 5ft8, average looks, enjoys most things in life, WLTM a slim female for friendship and love. Box 444738 TXT

GENUINE male, 43, 6ft4, slim build, enjoys bowling, cinema, going to the pub and gardening, WLTM similar lady for a long-term relationship. Box 441595 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim male, 43yr old, 5ft10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, wttm a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate. Box 441706 TXT

KIND gent, 43, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, slim-medium build, average looks, seeking female 37-57 to enjoy holidays, music, cinema, meals and more with. Box 444712

ATHLETIC male, 43, 6ft, brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoy all the fine things in life, WLTM a caring and loving female for a LTR. Box 444794 TXT

ANDY: single male, 40yrs old, tall, short brown hair, blue eyes, 6ft, looking to meet female, 30-41 yrs old, for fun times, maybe more. Box 887086 P

GOOD guy, 44, 5ft8, medium build, non smoker, big brown eyes/dark hair, I work unsociable hours but would love to make time for the right person. Box 444540

MUSCULAR male, 44, 5ft9, blue eyes, enjoy keeping fit and good company, WLTM a female, 32-44, for fun and friendship, maybe more. Box 444075

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426202 TXT

HI there, 46yr old male, 6ft, looking for a relationship with the right person, gsoh essential, romantic times guaranteed. Box 887474

SLIM, fit, loving and very caring male, 46, enjoys football, swimming and going out for walks, WLTM an honest and considerate female for a LTR. Box 444658

SCORPIO male, 46, 6ft3, German, brown hair, brown eyes, seeking pretty woman with sex appeal for romantic times and perhaps lasting love. Rochester. Box 444673 TXT P

WHITE male, 46, 5ft7, easygoing, n/s, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, wttm a female to be happy with. Kids no problem. Box 444339 TXT

SEAFORD male, 46, slim, 5ft10, green eyes, light brown hair, attractive, GSOH, interested in music, bowling, eating out, theatre/cinema, animals, WLTM like-minded lady for love. Box 444055 TXT

KIND, caring and considerate gentleman, 46, 6ft, medium build, likes animal and motorbikes, WLTM a lady to be my soulmate. Box 444747 TXT

GENUINE hard-working male, 47, slim, good looking, 5ft8, into most things...sports, pubs, meals, socialising, walks, travel...WLTM honest, loyal female, for TLC. Eastbourne. Box 444244 TXT

GENTLE kind male, 48, 5ft9, medium build, WLTM nice, attractive, friendly, fun to be with lady who likes going out and socialising, for friendship first. Box 442869 TXT

OUT going, sporty, 48yr old guy, 6ft, blue eyes, medium build. I'm an engineer and have a motorbike. I'd love to meet an out going woman. Box 444561 TXT

YOUNG at heart 48yr old male, active with many interests, WLTM a caring and loving female, 45-55, for a LTR. Rye. Box 443463 TXT

BLOND, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664 TXT

WARM, sincere, n/s, eligible, stimulating, male, 48, well-groomed, OHAC, 5'10", slim/medium, settled but playful, seeks similar lady to share LTR and smiles. Box 924095 TXT P

TALL, silver, handsomish guy, fit 49yr old, no ties, own successful business, WLTM slim, attractive, loving, tactile lady for loving LTR. Box 887448 TXT P

FIT, hard working, adventurous man, 49, n/s, likes nights out and cosy nights in. WLTM a lady to share love, fun times and more with. Box 440759 TXT

FUN-LOVING and laid-back male, 50, 6ft4, slim/medium build, smoker, enjoys cinema, music, travel and country pubs, seeking a female 40-46 for fun, romance & LTR. Box 443869 TXT

HI my name's David, 50, honest, caring, 6ft, medium build, blonde hair/blue eyes, OHAC, non-smoker, likes nights in and out, seeks female, for long-term relationship,. Box 420000 TXT

SINGLE fit builder, 53, looking for friendship or maybe more, I'm 6ft, medium build, fair hair, blue eyes...like the sound of me? Get in touch!. Box 887315 TXT

I'M Gordon, 56, a Scorpio, 1 daughter, 5ft8, slim, dark hair, dark eyes, a smoker, occasional drinker, love music & soaps, animals, seeking similar female. Box 440178 TXT

CARING, tactile, creative professional man, 56, slim, 6ft, seeks a slim attractive intelligent woman with a youthful approach to life for warm and tender times. Box 888954 TXT P

MALE, 53yrs, 6ft, likes the coast, countryside, good food and wine, seeks fun female, 40-58, for friendship and love. Box 703563 TXT

I'M 58, 5ft10, quite well built, hazel eyes, a builder, own business, quite sporty and active, enjoy golf, fishing, holidays, seeking nice lady to woo. Box 438607 TXT

PETER, 59, optimistic, genuine and fun-loving, enjoys meals out, cinema, walking and ice-skating. Seeking a female companion to share nights out with. Box 444767 TXT

HONEST, caring, young-at-heart smoker, 60, tactile, loving, loves getting out and about, country pubs, socialising, WLTM loving, caring lady for companionship and relationship. Romney Marsh. Box 444855 TXT

TED, 59, 5ft5, brown hair, likes karaoke, eating out, walking, cooking, seeks tactile, honest woman for friendship and more. Box 434667

60YRS young, handsome male, 6ft1, athletic, loves keeping fit, cricket, music (classical/blues!), cooking; seeking lady to see what happens!. Box 438361 TXT P

61YR old gent, 5ft9, slim, non-smoker, nutty but fun, nice looks, likes foreign travel, cinema, music, seeking similar nutty female for like-minded good times. Box 440173 TXT P

OPEN and honest 64 year old, divorced male, enjoys walks and talks, meals in or out, seeks lady of similar disposition, for friendship possibly more. Box 898863 TXT

ACTIVE male, 66 years old, looking to meet down-to-earth lady, 50-65, to share interests, friendship, maybe more. Box 416043 TXT

VERY lonely living man, 67, enjoys good conversation, meals, travel, many hobbies, seeking younger female 21-67 for company and maybe more later. Box 442757 TXT

Men for men

35YR old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652 TXT

40YR old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 TXT

GOOD guy, looking for male, 35-50. I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 TXT

42YR old male, blue eyes, shaved head, enjoys eating out, socialising, art and theatre, WLTM a male, 35-50, for fun, possible more. Rye. Box 444165 TXT P

SOLVENT, professional 41yr old male, enjoys eating out, films and keeping fit, WLTM a younger male for fun, friendship and hopefully love. Box 444725 TXT

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32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 TXT

SLIM lady, 31, shoulder-length dark hair, hazel eyes, loves having fun and meeting new people. Mark, the pub owner, please call and leave contact details!. Box 433131 TXT

PRETTY black female, 31, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR, Chatham. Box 437778 TXT

I'M Ruth, hard-working, kind, caring, 33, brown hair, brown eyes, nice smile, seeking down-to-earth and loving male to get to know and see what happens!. Box 901072 TXT P

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, WLTM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whitstable, please call again, leave contact details!. Box 406670 TXT

NICE, fun-loving single mum 1, 32, 5'7", brown hair, like cinema, walks, WLTM caring male for friendship, maybe leading to LTR. East Sussex. Box 409416 TXT

CURVY brunette, 33, 5ft4, single mum, wttm a special man, divorced or separated, to share the nice things in life with. Box 443255 TXT P

CURVY brunette, 5ft4, hazel eyes, single mum, looking for that special passionate and caring man to share good times with. Box 443256 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, wttm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 TXT P

BUBBLY, genuine, honest, caring Mum of 1, 34, dark hair, blue eyes, loves nights in/out, seeking male, 30-40, with GSOH, for love and all. Box 437041 TXT

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 TXT P

LONELY, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 TXT

CARING sensitive female, 39, looking for fun, friendly, outgoing male who likes astrology, walks, cinema, eating in/out and more. Box 444498 TXT

SOCIABLE female, 41, attractive & slim, looking for a honest, chilled guy who has time to spare and share!. Box 887484 TXT P

HELLO, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796 TXT

DIVORCED mum of two, 41, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, blues eyes, GSOH, likes eating out, bowling, cinema, nights out, seeking like-minded male for love. Box 887416 TXT

GENUINE female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 TXT P

BUBBLY 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, wttm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TXT

FUN-LOVING, curvaceous 42yr old, sports loving, slightly 'mad', lots of love to give, suffering from neglect. Needing TLC and hugs...can you help?. Box 887854 TXT P

ATTRACTIVE young looking 42yr old, size 12, genuine, honest, caring, seeking male who enjoys music, theatre, cinema, for loving relationship. Box 444681 TXT

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05/10/08

Silent minority

POLICE are investigating the death of an elderly man after he was hit by a car at Tesco in Crescent Road, Faversham.

Sydney Wicks, 73, from Ashford, was hit by a red Nissan Micra at on Thursday, September 18 at 9.30am.

Witnesses are asked to call 01622 798538 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A PHOBIA of talking – 'selective mutism' – affects six in every 1,000 children but a lack of awareness about the condition means it often goes undiagnosed and untreated.

An expert in childhood communication disorders explained that the rare anxiety condition was the persistent failure of affected youngsters to speak in specific social situations.

Maggie Johnson, who works as a speech and language advisor for East and Coastal Kent NHS Community Services, said examples included children being mute at school, with peer groups and teachers, but breaking their silence in more familiar situations such as at home with family members.

"For many years it was regarded as a behavioural problem and it was only in 1994 that the official world health category was changed so the wording of it described it as persistent failure rather than a persistent refusal to speak.

"It is not a case of the child being wilful or stubborn and although that was discovered nearly 20 years ago, the damage was still done.

"There is no training for teachers or medical professionals in the initial stages, so it is pot luck whether they know about it," she said.

The Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA) has arranged the first awareness week to highlight the condition, which starts on Monday.



Ms Johnson helps children with the disorder in Thanet and Canterbury, and wants to raise awareness of selective mutism among teachers and family doctors so it can be diagnosed and treated in its early stages.

She said: "It is rare condition but affected children are at significant disadvantage personally and socially. It is also a greater barrier to learning, with the emphasis on speech in the school curriculum."

She has written a manual for professionals on how to treat the condition along with Alison Wintgens, speech and language therapist at St George's hospital, London.

"Early identification is important so that some form of intervention can be planned, as the condition may not improve spontaneously, leading to the child becoming a withdrawn and socially isolated teenager with an uncertain future.

"Children with selective mutism are vulnerable to bullying and may underachieve at school because of their difficulty with communicating," she said.

Ms Johnson said there was always a trigger for the disorder and that it affects children who are naturally anxious.

"It could be that a brother or sister has gone into hospital and someone starts talking to the child who they don't know.

"They transfer one feeling of anxiety to the fact that someone is trying to talk to them. As a result the child could come to associate communication with an unfamiliar person in an unfamiliar setting with a panicked feeling," she said.



CAMPAIGN: SMIRA poster and (inset) speech therapist Maggie Johnson

Ms Wintgens said the psychological problem was linked to fear of others hearing their voice and hyper-sensitivity to the reactions of others. The child develops a phobia of talking which prevents them from speaking, even when they want to.

She said: "There has been an increase in the amount of pressure we are under in society. In pre-schools and playgroups people are seeing it often. Everyone in a playgroup knows a child not able to speak.

"Children are expected to speak very early there are targets in playschools all children are expected to achieve.

"Family structures are constantly changing. There is so much anxiety around," Ms Johnson added, explaining the increase in cases of children with the disorder.

• For more information visit SMIRA's website at www.selectivemutism.co.uk.

• If you are a professional and want to order a copy of the Selective Mutism Resource Manual by Ms Johnson and Ms Wintens call 01908 326 944 or email info@speechmark.net.

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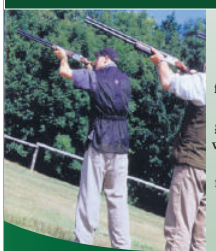
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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Our loss would be London's gain

ON PAPER Michael Fuller certainly appears to have the credentials to succeed Sir Ian Blair in the UK's top policing job.

He has spent the vast majority of his career with the Metropolitan Police, during which time he set up Operation Trident to tackle black-on-black gun crime.

Mr Fuller was instrumental in establishing the anti-burglary initiative, Operation Bumblebee, and the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force in response to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

He holds honorary doctorates in law and was called to the Bar last year.

Add in his success in Kent and it is easy to see how the odds on him becoming the next Met Commissioner were cut to 10/1, and how much the county would miss him.

In July, Home Office figures showed that between April, 2007, and March, 2008, the number of crimes recorded in Kent had dropped by 15,133 to 131,269, compared with the previous year.

And in an interview with this newspaper last month, Mr Fuller pledged to build on that 10.3 per cent drop and bring offending rates down further.

Mr Fuller is not afraid to speak out. Whereas Sir Ian reportedly alienated some rank-and-file officers, Mr Fuller backed his officers in their pay dispute with the Home Office. He also attacked the Government by claiming the public was losing confidence in its criminal justice policies.

The other issue that, rightly or wrongly, will be a factor is Mr Fuller's colour.

The fact he is black wouldn't make him any better at the commissioner's job, but such an appointment would send a powerful message to those members of London's minorities who harbour suspicions of the police.

OPINION:

Here we go again



When she moved to Thanet, JOAN GODDARD wanted respite, what she found was the China Gateway

THE fickle finger of fate has done it again! Ten years ago, I left the London suburb of Kingston-upon-Thames to live in the peaceful countryside and unspoilt marshes of the Hoo peninsula.

There I met my husband. We got caught up in a passionate No Airport at Cliffe campaign, then environmental threats from Thames Gateway, Lower Thames Crossing and a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth followed.

Having been frequent visitors to Thanet, we decided enough was enough and retired to the peace and quiet of our bungalow by the sea. Then fate dealt its ugly blow.

Four weeks ago we discovered we live in the midst of the China Gateway proposal and that Thanet council is voting on whether to pass outline planning permission for Phase I on Thursday. Needless to say, there has not been a high-profile consultation and most people have still not heard about it.

Having looked at the plans, a major concern is that this three-phase project is potentially so huge it will impact on neighbouring boroughs.

This appears to have gone unnoticed by councillors. Phase I would be built on land designated for job creation in the Local Plan. Subsequent phases (II and III are in the public domain) would be built on prime farmland.

From the documentation we have seen, we do not believe Phase I is a stand-alone project, which implies automatic acceptance of phases II and III.

Thanet council held a cabinet meeting on September 18, passing a motion for the Secretary of State to consider allowing an extension to Local Plan development land.

China Gateway would be adjacent to Manston Business Park. We believe it to be a vast warehousing project for the storage and distribution of Chinese goods. Councillors and developers Commercial Group Properties say there will be research, development and warehousing opportunities, implying quality jobs. Phase I is only warehousing.

Since there is no manufacturing opportunity in any phase, common sense suggests it would be more economical for R&D to be done in China. The complex is to be on top of Thanet's natural drinking water supply, which is a real cause for alarm. China's environmental record is not good.

Thanet council and the developers are promising "thousands of jobs". Persistent inquiries have produced no evidence of this. A developers' representative did say 10 per cent of direct jobs would go to the Chinese, but had no facts about the other 90 per cent.

Apparently, secondary jobs on offer for Thanet workers were mowing, cleaning, signage and vending services – at best seasonal and spasmodic work.

In August, 2,543 people collected Job Seekers Allowance in Thanet. To attract "thousands of jobs" to the area, together with other job creation schemes and development proposals, can only be described as overkill.

Some reports say this complex could be operational 24/7. Several buildings are 14 to 15 metres high so will be seen for miles. This would mean light pollution for many.

Developers' documents show approximately 17,000 daily truck trips to service the hub with all three phases operational. Such increased volume of traffic may eventually lead to gridlock in Kent. There would be serious pollution issues, too.

There are no facts regarding tonnage, type of goods, how they will be shipped here, or distribution destinations. With crucial details missing, we can only surmise greater levels of containers into Thamesport and Felixstowe. This would impact on the Hoo peninsula and the Dartford Crossing.

Should China Gateway be adopted in all three phases, it would be the perfect vehicle for KCC to pressurise government for the Lower Thames Crossing.

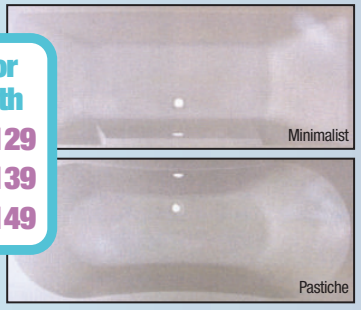
Thanet council leader Sandy Ezekiel said: "Chinese companies coming to Manston are here for its strategic location. It will be the hub for their European business as well as the UK, not just warehousing."

This implies freight expansion at Manston, too. The Sunday Telegraph has published an article on China's shrinking economy. Will Thanet be left in ruins if the bubble bursts?

Are Thanet council and Commercial Group Properties willing to throw away prime farmland, quality of life and rural heritage for what seem little more than wild promises?

We believe this is a Kent issue and should be treated as such. If you agree, write or email your concerns to Thanet council and the Secretary of State.

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Break the habit, Nick

Cllr Alex King's urging of Kent County Council to follow the UN ethics code on investments comes at a time when the proven horrors of smoking are being graphically depicted on cigarette packets.

Surely there can be no excuse for Nick Chard, KCC's finance head, to be investing public money in tobacco companies.

The investments are even more worrying given KCC's proactive involvement in social care issues and work with developing nations and the African Union, with the astonishing death rate discrepancies in parts of Kent, such as Thanet.

Why will Nick not give up the cigarettes and £10 million of tobacco investments and reinvest the Kent public's monies more ethically? Tobacco is hardly a long-term investment. For anybody.

Surely the time has come, with Medway investigating its toxic chemical storage policies, to take a greater lead across Kent on public health issues.

Tim Garbutt, Canterbury

Wayne's wise words

I felt compelled to write after watching yourkenttv.co.uk and the clip of Wayne Hemingway at the Construction Expo 2008.

I urge all planners, architects, teachers and councils to watch his speech – it would be eight minutes well spent.

Charles Harper, Sittingbourne

Instant expert on MMR

Steve Knight writes about the possibility of a measles outbreak in Kent (September 21) and your editorial states "... there really is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism".

You do not know that to be true. You only really "know" that you have been told there is no proven link, and people feel that the Government lied about the link.

The Government may still be unwilling to admit it may have made a mistake. However, if the "complications of measles" – including death – are real, then to prevent any further outbreaks, they should issue enough supplies of the single measles vaccine.

Parents are not stupid. They do care about their children's lives and wellbeing, which is why they have refused the MMR vaccine.

I am certain, from the parents and other adults I've spoken with, they would allow their children to have the measles vaccine.

The Government could have prevented the outbreak in London. If ministers cared more about children's lives than saving face, they would have issued the measles vaccine.

Richard Chester, by email

Verbal abuse of police is an absolute disgrace

In last week's comment regarding police rudeness, the adage "Manners don't cost a thing", was used. Well, there is another expression: "You get what you give".

Some people think contributing about 15p a year to a police officer's wages through council tax gives them the right to be verbally abusive and rude to us.

It does not. I am fed up with being sworn at by the public because they dislike the police.

We work long hours and do our best in difficult circumstances, but no-one ever comments about that. Many may say: "Well, if you don't like it, leave."

If we did, who would take our place? No-one would be prepared to do the work if they knew what we face on a daily basis. The language used by the public, whether it be face-to-face or on the telephone, is a disgrace.

Perhaps those who complain about the police should come to the control room and listen to the calls staff take. It would certainly open their eyes and ears.

I am happy to be polite to those who call the police for assistance and, like my colleagues, offer as much help as I can.

However, I don't see why being polite is a one-way street.

As I said: you get what you give. Those who complain should remember that next time they speak to police officers or staff.

Jayne Meredith Kite, Larkfield

Dazzled by EU rules

I address this plea not only to the Government but to the public too.

No-one who drives a vehicles wants £160 or more added to their yearly bill.

Yet this is the estimated extra amount we will have to fork out if we submit to a rule to keep vehicles' lights on during daylight, as the European Union wants us to do.

I will not comply with such a stupid order. It's bad enough trying to see past the headlights of one car in daylight now. In Scandinavian countries where it is dark most of the time, yes, but not here. We pay more than any other country to use our roads as it is.

My plea is this: write as many letters to as many MPs as you can, as well as newspapers, and let the Government know the drivers of Britain will not comply with another stupid EU directive.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Universe of possibilities

Phil Granger's muddled analysis of creation/evolution inadvertently serves the purpose of semi-educated, American-style evangelists.

Of course, it is entirely possible that God created the universe 13 billion years ago.

The Bible agrees, stating that this was "in the beginning".

And if God created the universe, then he also created the scientific laws that govern everything, including evolution.

That birds can fly to their destination with pinpoint accuracy and humans feel compassion is entirely and logically explainable through the evolutionary process.

Schools should only teach provable facts in science. QED.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

Not keeping us posted

In recent months I have noticed a serious decline in the reliability of the post.

Maybe somebody from the Royal Mail could explain why.

Posting first-class letters on a Friday to places in east Kent was, until recently, reliable for Saturday delivery, but not any more.

Recently I posted two first-class letters on a Friday, one to Deal, six miles away, and one to Herne Bay, less than 25 miles away.

Both arrived on Monday. Also a friend posted a letter to me on a Friday, from

Letters continued on p30

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

CHANDLER
Gavin and Emma Chandler of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Lewis Alan Chandler on 26th September 2008, baby brother to Sophie Kate Chandler.

DEVANI
Isabella would like to announce the birth of Renee Yvonne a sister for Kirit Emmanuel on 20th August 2008.

GARNETT
Kahren and Russell Garnett of Culverstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Elissa Nicole Garnett on 30th August 2008, baby sister to Alexander.

HARDING
Tony and Victoria of Chartham are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Thomas Daniel Sidney Harding, on 24th September 2008.
A new brother for George.

HUNTLEY
Natasha and Sean Huntley of Hempstead celebrate the birth of their son Jamie William Huntley on 16th September 2008, baby brother to Beth.

JIGGINS
Nicola is pleased to announce the birth of her baby Matthew Jared Malcolm Jiggins on 4th September 2008 born 2 months premature but safely home now.

JOHNSTON
Craig and Sian of Rainham celebrate the birth of their son Tommy James on 9th September 2008 weighing 8lb.

LLOYD
Phil and Pam are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Megan on 17th September 2008 weighing 4lb 15oz. A baby sister for Kieran and Katie.

LUKER
Scott and Christine celebrate the birth of their daughter Lexie Julie on 19th September 2008.Welcome sister to Porsha,Keeley-Marie, and Gracie-Mae.

MARSHALL
Ciara Danielle born on 16th September 2008, weighing 8lb 7oz. Daughter to Daniel and Mary and sister to Alice Marshall of Larkfield.

MEADER
Corran Timothy Meader was born at 9.42 pm on the 25th September 2008 to his delighted parents Tim and Arlette. Corran weighed 7lb 15oz and is a brother for Freya Rose.

MELLOR
Brian and Sally-Ann are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Daisy Neve, born on 15th September 2008, weighing 6lb 6oz. A sister for Ruben and Dylan.

O'BRIEN
David and Phorn are pleased to annouce the birth of their son Sam on 12th September 2008.

PARTRIDGE
Jon and Sherry are very proud to announce the new blessing in their lives Guy William Partridge. He was born at 2.24 am on the 14th September at Darent Valley Hospital and weighed 6lb 14oz.

PENDER
David McKenzie and Victoria Pender are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Jack David Leith Pender. Jack was born on the 26th September 2008 at 3.03 pm and weighed 6lb 11oz. His parents are over the moon and are so happy to welcome their new arrival.

RACKLEY
Ben and Chris Rackley of Westgate-on-Sea celebrate the birth of their son Jacob Kevin on 20th September 2008.Our most beautiful and precious son.

SAUNDERS
Charles Montgomery born on 16th September 2008, weighing 7lb 4oz. Son to Edward and Tanya in Ramsgate.

TRIGG
Symon and Emma Trigg of Ashford celebrate the birth of their daughter Evy Marie on 16th September 2008, weighing 6lb.

TURNER
Mike and Melissa are delighted to announce the birth of their son Theodore Michael Edward on 8th September 2008, weighing 8lb 2oz.

WADE
Claire and Gary of Teynham celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Charles Wade on 23rd September 2008.

WILKINSON
Kelly and Gavin are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Miley Paige Wilkinson born on 18th September 2008 weighing 6lb 4.5oz

WOODS
Robert and Portia are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Clementine Louisa on 10th September 2008 weighing 6lb 7oz.

DEATHS

BOLT
Betty May Bolt of Downswood in Maidstone, passed away after a short illness on 24th September 2008, aged 88.

CHITTY
Chitty nee Rayfield-Elsie died peacefully 28th September aged 88 years. Beloved wife of Leonard. Cremation at Hawkinge on 9th October 2pm.

FISHER
John Adam James Fisher of Canterbury died peacefully at his home on 27th September 2008.There will be a private family funeral followed by a Celebration of Johnslife. This will be held at a later date but will be by invitation only as numbers are restricted.

MITCHELL
Gerald, 64, beloved husband and father, passed away on the morning of 30 September 2008 at his home at Genesta Avenue, Whitstable. Details of funeral service and reception are available c/o C.W. Lyons and Sons Ltd – 01227 272375.

MITCHELL
Doreen Elizabeth Mitchell of Snodland, died peacefully on 28th September 2008. Funeral service to be held at Vinters Park Crematorium on Wednesday 8th October at 2pm. All enquiries to Clarkes Funeral Service of Snodland on 01634 240458.

NAYLOR
Edie Naylor died peacefully on 28th September 2008. She will be dearly missed by family and friends.

WALLER
John Harry of Sandling Maidstone passed away peacefully on 24th September 2008. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium at 11.45am on Wednesday 8th October 2008. Enquiries to Family Funeral Services Barming Maidstone, Tel 01622 725704.

WATSON
Ken Watson of Lenham died peacefully after a short illness on 27th September 2008. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 3:30pm on Wednesday 8th October. Family flowers only, donations to Pickard and Beale Maidstone to be divided between Macmillan Nurses and Cornwallis Ward Maidstone Hospital.

YAU
Ki Fong of Ramsgate passed away on 20th September 2008. He will be greatly missed by his family.

Letters continued from p29

Canterbury to Dover. It was not delivered until Monday. Readers should not rely on Friday to Saturday first class delivery, even within local areas.

Graham Wanstall, Dover

Swindlers and rogues

Not everyone will lose out in the gathering economic storm.

This distinction falls to the ever-growing number of chief officers in local government in Kent who are earning in excess of £50,000, plus bonuses.

These are the very people who are already preparing to strap more debt to our backs through swingeing increases in next year's council tax.

Readers should be aware these officials have to ring-fence their budgets so as to safeguard their positions and final-salary pensions.

To do this they merely have to wave the mongrel stick of inflation and add an increase to the current year's expenditure.

These officers care not one jot for the cost pressures on people struggling to cope with rising household bills and job insecurity. They also know that they can rely on the long-standing impotency of councillors to resist higher council taxes.

Against this background, whoever heard of a chief officer losing his job and his house being repossessed?

It is also against this backdrop of falling house prices that they want to put up this iniquitous property tax, which is nothing but an authorised swindle.

S John, Maidstone

Say no to Boris Island

So London Mayor Boris Johnson wants an airport in the Thames Estuary, off the Isle of Sheppey.

What rubbish. We have already had the Cliffe airport proposal kicked out, yet here we go again.

There are RSPB special protection areas on Sheppey's Elmley Marshes, which shelter thousands of migrating birds.

What if a bird strike brought a jet liner down on the Isle of Grain oil facility or power station? Or there was a crash in the estuary near the sunken wartime munitions ship the SS Richard Montgomery?

Fog, mist and high winds are common in the estuary. How would that be dealt with?

Politicians and business people are only concerned about making money.

What's in it for us? Aside from the birds and wildlife, what about the people who care about their villages?

The South East has seen too much concrete already.

Say no to Boris Island.

RD Stanting, Meopham

Save this railway gem

The Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway was built more than a century ago, but the owner of the former paper mill and the land it uses wants to redevelop the site.

For a while this was supported by the council, although it now appears to be coming on board. But M-Real, the firm which owns the land, is still refusing to talk.

Last Saturday and Sunday people from far and wide showed their support for this fantastic ex-industrial railway by turning up in large numbers and travelling on the line.

Even the mayor and mayoress were on board.

This is not a local issue for Sittingbourne. I live in Bexley and often take my grandson to the railway.

This wonderful mixture of industrial Britain and the oasis of Kemsey, should – far from being closed – be supported by the local authority and the Government.

Please help save the SKLR.

D Wiffen, Bexley

It's all flooding back

Further to the letter (September 28) about the 1953 and 1968 floods, I was temporarily employed driving a petrol tanker in the flood of 1968.

Crayford High Street was waist-deep in water. Cars and small vans were well and truly stranded.

The only vehicles moving in the High Street were buses and HGVs. My tanker was unaffected, but I was a little taken aback to be overtaken by two rowers in a canoe.

Turning to my co-driver and mate, Tom, I said: "When we tell our children and grandchildren we were once overtaken by a canoe in Crayford High Street, they are going to think we are mad."

David Taylor, Canterbury

Airport a non-starter

Along with the RSPB, Friends of the North Kent Marshes are wholly opposed to the construction of an airport anywhere in the Thames Estuary because of the immense damage it would cause to internationally important wildlife and the environment.


BORIS JOHNSON

The whole issue was exhaustively investigated between 2002 and 2005 in the Government's Aviation White Paper.

All the key players, including the aviation industry, contributed. The idea of an airport in the estuary was conclusively ruled out and upheld by the High Court. In addition to the unprecedented environmental damage and the resulting massive legal implications, the investigation found that an estuary airport did not make sense economically, would not meet the requirements of the aviation industry and presented a significantly higher risk of bird strike than at any other major airport in the UK.

It would potentially be the single biggest piece of environmental vandalism ever perpetrated in the UK.

The Government would have to recreate any lost or damaged habitat elsewhere before work on the airport could start.

And even then only if it could prove there was no alternative site and that it was in the overriding public interest.

They would face a legal battle that could last for years. The estuary contains one of the biggest arrays of internationally protected wildlife habitat – Special Protection Areas – in Europe.

These protected areas stretch all down the estuary. Every year, the wider estuarine complex is a hub for 300,000 migrant birds that rely on the area for feeding and roosting.

Any damage must be compensated for and there is nowhere in the estuary, arguably in Europe, where such large-scale damage could be compensated for adequately.

Climate change remains the greatest threat to biodiversity and we believe there should be no further airport expansion.

The impact of an airport in the estuary would extend far outside the immediate area.


Challenge the professionals...

WASH YOUR HANDS!
It is everyone's responsibility to stay clean.

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CLEAN SAFE HEALTHY

Emissions from aircraft are one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gases.

The demand for flights should be managed rather than just accepted as necessary.

In a low-lying area, the threat of climate change is particularly significant and it is foolhardy to consider building an airport that would only contribute to the problem.

The Government's plans for the Thames Gateway are being promoted as low-carbon and stress the importance of green space and the natural environment as part of its success.

An estuary airport would remove any possibility of the Gateway being low-carbon.

An airport in the estuary would be massively expensive. Existing and planned transport infrastructure links are inadequate and would further add to the cost.

Recent statements by London Mayor Boris Johnson do nothing to alter these findings.

The threats and the risks remain the same.

An airport in the Thames Estuary is a non-starter ecologically, environmentally and economically.

Gill Moore, Joan Darwell and George Crozer, Friends of the North Kent Marshes

Red in tooth and claw

Reading the letters regarding the shooting of game birds, I offer the opinions of a bird-watcher of more than 50 years' experience who can consider the wider implications.

I do not like the shooting or killing of any creature but, as a committed carnivore, I feel I have no right to criticise those who perform the dastardly deed on my behalf, irrespective of whether it is enjoyed or not.

The raising of pheasants and partridges for shooting is probably the finest example of free-range poultry farming in this country.

Even their execution over the guns is very much a hit or miss affair (pardon the pun), conducted on familiar territory with better than even chances of escaping unscathed.

Compare this with the lot of chickens which, at a very early age, are rounded up and driven miles to the slaughterhouse to face an inevitable and clinical death.

Many game birds survive the season to go on to enjoy the luxury of procreation the following spring. The numbers that are shot are replaced the following season.

I find the allegation regarding the burial of pheasant corpses unbelievable, as these birds are a source of both food and income.

As for conservation, there are many small copses and other woodlands in Kent which have survived because of shooting.

Here on Sheppey, where natural cover is scarce, maize strips and blocks are planted and many are under-sown with other food plants, such as millet.

This is not merely attractive to the pheasants. Large flocks of finches and buntings survive the winter because of this food source.

The vegetarians I know almost invariably own a cat and then preach that they love wildlife. Yet their pets are responsible for the deaths of more songbirds than pheasants taken by shooters.

With a minimum of 10 million cats in the UK, and an average of three bird-kills a year each, the maths are simple.

People who are genuinely concerned for wildlife would be better off trying to abolish cat ownership, not casting aspersions on matters they might not fully understand.

Ian Davidson, Sheerness

Invitation from St John

I would like to draw readers' attention to a regular meeting of a charity that supports St John Ambulance and the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

Membership is open to all and offers fellowship, talks, visits and a chat each month. We are small in number but are sure there are many who would benefit from our meetings. You will have a chance to have contact with St John Ambulance at Gravesend.

This is a Christian charity but we are open to anybody who is lonely or would like to meet others.

Come and give us a talk, as an introduction to us and of your interests.

Perhaps you have had a first aid course in the past. You are welcome to contact me for a personal introduction. The meetings are held in the St John Ambulance hall, Armoury Drive, Gravesend.

The Rev David Hitchcock, Gravesend

Opening up the Tunnel

This week Eurostar is getting back to normal after the recent fire, but there is even better news on the horizon for anyone who uses the Channel Tunnel.

From 2011 EU regulations will open up international rail systems to competition from different operators.

In practice, this means Eurostar's automatic monopoly of the cross-Channel rail link will end.

German rail operator Deutsche Bahn announced its intention to operate high-speed services between the UK and European destinations some time ago.

More recently Air France and KLM, in consortium with Veolia, announced similar plans to enter the market. Opening the system to competition always brings greater choice and benefits to consumers. All of which is good news for the travelling public.

Richard Ashworth, MEP for South East England

Look after your eyes

Playing a blind character in a current BBC TV series has given me an insight into what it might be like to live with blindness.



MEERA SYAL

In preparation, I met blind and partially sighted people who showed me how they go about their lives. But it also made me value my sight.

Every day in the UK, 100 people begin to lose their sight. But, shockingly, half of sight loss can be avoided. That's why I'm supporting RNIB's Eye Health Week. The charity is encouraging us all to look after our eyes by getting regular eye tests, not smoking and eating our vegetables.

Regular eye tests are particularly important if you are Asian, African or Afro-Caribbean as you are more at risk of certain eye diseases. An eye test can spot a sight-threatening condition before you know you've got it and could save your sight.For more information, go to www.rnib.org.uk or call RNIB's helpline on 0845 766 9999.

Meera Syal, actress, writer, broadcaster and RNIB supporter, London

Take care of business

As the impact of the credit crunch continues to be felt, one of the key questions for the economy is how small businesses can remain confident about their future prospects.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants is participating in BT's Small Business Week, from October 13-17.

This campaign is dedicated to championing the 4.3 million plus small enterprises in the UK and will highlight the reasons for confidence in small businesses, despite the current economic outlook.

During stormy economic conditions, SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) need good solid advice from accountants.

Over the last five years ACCA has committed itself to becoming the accountancy body closest to the small business sector. Careful planning is necessary now more than ever. We recommend small businesses maintain a meaningful dialogue with their accountants and banks.

Could you switch accounts and find a better deal with a new bank? Could your bank give you any special deals as a loyal customer? Chase your cash-flow, ensure management accounts are up to date, and that all key financial reconciliations are completed, reviewed and outstanding items cleared.

Further information on Small Business Week can be found at www.sbw08.co.uk.

During these turbulent times, the message for SMEs is to closely manage your business and prepare for the economic recovery that will inevitably follow.

Wyn Mears, director, ACCA UK

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A ROAD accident was simulated for society, health and development diploma students.

Firefighters, police and ambulance staff took part in the demonstration in front of 120 teenagers at Thanet fire station. It was the culmination of a day of activities for the 14 to 19-year-olds.

Ambulance service official Pam Fricker said: "Events such as this give us the opportunity to support the students' education and interact with the community. This involvement is crucial as it helps people understand what the service is about and what we do."

Leave the rat race for the classroom

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

CITY workers hit by the credit crunch are being targeted as part of a bid to combat the shortage of maths teachers in Kent.

Canterbury Christ Church University believes the loss of thousands of jobs in the financial sector will mean people looking for a career change could be inspired to retrain as teachers.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools, which is responsible for recruiting teachers, said it had seen a 34 per cent year-on-year increase in people visiting its website and has already been giving presentations in Canary Wharf, home to several big financial companies.

Dr John Moss, the university's dean of education, said: "There are people who commute to London who are going to lose their jobs. But there are good opportunities in teaching.

"Science and maths are the subjects where we see the biggest shortage of teachers."

He said the university had already been advertising its "diverse range" of teacher training programmes in Metro, a free London paper targeted at commuters.



CRUNCH TIME: Dr John Moss

But will financiers used to high salaries and bonuses be prepared to ditch their pinstripe suits and head into the county's classrooms?

Dr Moss said: "People have possibly been commuting three or four hours a day to work in the City.

"There is an improved quality of life if you work nearer home and they would be making a contribution to their community. Their skills and expertise are needed. We have a lot of evidence from people who have already made the career change that they find teaching challenging, exciting and fulfilling. They sense they are making a difference to people's lives."

Dr Moss said the university had already been directly recruiting people in the capital and was geared up to accommodating their needs.

The university offers distance-learning courses, programmes based around work and employment-based training, as well as the traditional course for graduates, the Professional Development and Community Education, he said.

"There are good career opportunities, and leadership skills are needed for people to be promoted to assistant or deputy headteacher.

"Their roles have increased responsibility now for schools that are increasingly getting into private finance initiatives," Dr Moss said.

"We have a diverse range of programmes and recruit all-year round."

For more information about the teacher training courses on offer, visit www.canterbury.ac.uk, call 01227 767 700 or email admissions@canterbury.ac.uk.

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Successful applicants will be employed for two years at the hotel – founded by two Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines – and complete NVQs in either food preparation or food service.

The apprentices will also be given the chance to attend development days with suppliers who work with ABode, including the Chapel Down Winery in Tenterden and Godmersham Game, near Canterbury.

To register your interest, write to Michael Caines Apprenticeship Scheme, Ros Young, ABode Manchester, 107 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 2DB.

Alternatively, email apprenticeships @michaelcaines.com.

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If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number.

Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.

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For an application form contact: KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: 24th October 2008
Interview date: 5th November 2008 in Folkestone

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

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K·C·A Services in the Community

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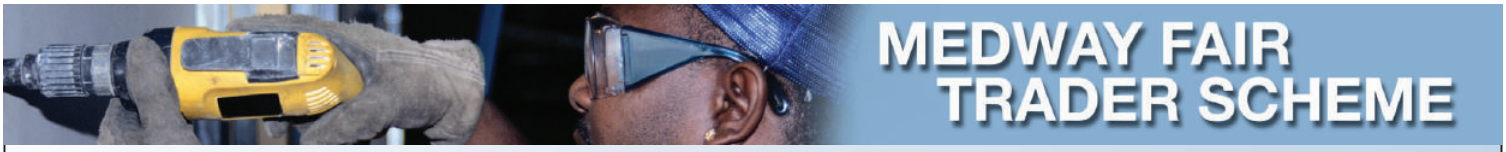
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Give green light to buyers

If you're thinking of selling your home, why not make a good first impression on prospective buyers by wowing them as soon as they step onto the garden path with some stunning green foliage

By **JANE JEWITT**





SOFT SHEEN: Golden Choisya ternata 'Sundance' looks clean and (right) Myrtus communis' fragrant flowers bloom well into the autumn

WHAT is it that makes you fall in love with one house and have the hairs stand up on the back of your neck at another? And this even before you have put your foot inside the front door.

If you are putting your house up for sale now, with the market harder than it has been for years, you will know creating a good first impression will need thought and preparation.

Take a cold and calculating look at your front garden. What can you to do to improve it? How can the few steps to your front door impress your prospective buyer? He may be looking at the house, but he will be taking in the atmosphere of the garden; the house, after all, sits in its garden, and the two must complement each other.

A group of pots near the front door adds a certain gentleness to the house, softening the rigid geometric outlines. They are very useful for disguise too, covering a badly placed manhole cover or a down-pipe, for instance.

Topiary is fashionable, suiting urban and rural styles alike.

It is fairly high maintenance and so a pair of neatly clipped box balls gives the impression that the owner of this house has things well under control. That impression can be carried right through the house.

Spend a little time to improve your lawns and apply a total lawn care treatment in the early autumn, when the weather allows. In two weeks the colour and condition of your lawn will be the envy of your neighbours.

Invest in some seasonal plants for your front garden. For the coming months choose plants that have good structural shape, such as Thuja 'Smaragd', a narrow conical conifer that has dense and bright green foliage.

Glossy evergreen foliage looks clean, and of course the leaves haven't been polished, but if they look as if they have, then what kind of impression have you created? The soft sheen and golden foliage of Choisya ternata 'Sundance' will brighten a shady corner.

Choose plants with perfume; our sense of smell is often overlooked, but the aromatic foliage of herbs and scent of flowers is very powerful. Myrtus communis, common myrtle, has fragrant flowers well into the autumn, followed by black berries through the winter.

The colour and perfume of beautiful plants will seduce even the non-gardener. Make the right choices now and you could find that your garden could sell your house for you.

To contact Jane Jewitt phone 01732 882711 or email janejewitt@tiscali.co.uk.

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Start off in style



BABY'S FIRST ROOM: Planet friendly nursery featured in the new book, Children's Rooms, by interior designer Andrea Martin



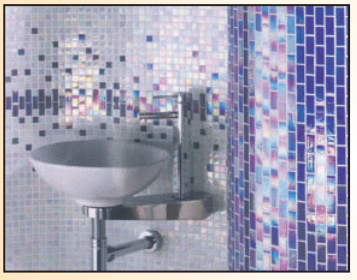
STYLISH: Lettino Stella cot from bobo kids priced from £1,090

Forget a cartoon mural and a lick of paint in pink or blue – today's kids are becoming as design savvy as their parents. Check out the trends and styles for smart kids rooms.

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By **GABRIELLE FAGAN**

NEW parents always want to give their baby the red carpet treatment when it arrives in the world and that means preparing a beautiful nursery.

But design savvy parents are turning away from the tried-and-tested formula of pastel colours and garishly coloured murals or predictable bunnies and teddies.

These days that nursery is likely to be a stylish sanctuary that echoes the good looks of the rest of their home.

"Quite right too," says Andrea Maflin, an interior designer whose new book, Children's Rooms, is packed with inspiring ideas for creating imaginative, practical rooms for little ones.

"Remember that just because this is a room for a child it doesn't necessarily have to be traditionally childish," she says.

"You don't have to sacrifice your own taste and design ideas if you don't want to – there's no reason why this room shouldn't be decoratively as much part of your home as any other room.

"That way you will enjoy spending time in it – especially as for the first couple of years it will be a room where long hours are spent day and night! So, it needs to be comfortable, relaxing."

All you need is a little know-how, some imagination and not too much money to create a room that will grow with your child, and won't need expensive redecoration too often.

Rob Chambers, commercial manager for furniture at Mamas & Papas, also recognises that parents want to harmonise the look of their child's room with the other living spaces, so good design flows through the entire home.

"Many families are keen to create an individual, more eclectic feel in their children's bedroom or nursery these days and they also want furniture that will last beyond their children's nursery years," he says.

"Oak is a popular wood finish and we are also seeing more interest in the crisp, clean look of white furniture, which reflects interior trends in other parts of the home."

Follow our guide to creating a perfect room for your child.



IN THE FRAME: £20 each and larger frame with the bear, £40 from Mamas & Papas



FIRST ROOM: A timeless room, that won't date as featured in Children's Rooms by Andrea Martin (inset) published by CICO Books for £16.99

EASY AS ABC: Proper planning and preparation is the key to success for a perfect room.

"You can't do too much of this," says Andrea. "Start early and by the time the baby arrives you will have a room ready to welcome your newborn into the world."

First, measure the room and do an accurate scale drawing of the space. Then draw in, to scale, any pieces of furniture that you already have which will make choosing any new pieces easier as you'll know how much room you have for them, and are less likely to make mistakes.

A durable but inexpensive carpet is essential as it will inevitably get stained and need replacing after a few years.

A cot/bed will have a longer life than just a cot. Position it so it's not in direct sunlight or next to a heater.

Ample storage is another must – if there's little floor space consider wall hooks and shelves.

Ensure windows can be blacked out for daytime naps. Blackout blinds plus lined curtains are a practical and stylish solution.

Have two sorts of light – a bright overhead light and a low-level light to use at night. Consider a table lamp fitted with a low-wattage bulb, or a dimmer switch on an overhead light.

Alternatively, fairy lights fixed securely along a picture rail are a pretty way of providing a soft light.

"If the room is for an older child, talk to him or her about it," says Andrea.

"Children often have surprisingly strong opinions and it's a good plan to take them into account."

If choosing a motif opt for a classic one – maybe a spaceship and spaceman or cowboy – rather than a cartoon character, which may quickly fall out of favour.





Get to the core of storing apples

Make your apples last longer and stay crunchy with these helpful storage tips

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

A FRIEND of mine has kindly been giving me great bags of cooking apples from her heavily-cropping tree, which I've been cooking and freezing to keep me stocked up on crumble and pie fillings for months to come.

I'm not lucky enough to have an apple tree in my own garden, but for those whose apples are ripening and ready for picking, storage is all-important.

Apples which ripen before the end of September don't generally store well. You're better off turning them into puree, juice or cider. The best keeping apples will happily hang on the trees, to be picked before the first hard frost hits them in October.

There are a number of ways to store apples and it doesn't have to cost a fortune. Some gardening retailers sell expensive, traditional-looking racking systems made of wood which keep the fruit fresh and dry, allowing plenty of air to circulate between layers.

Some gardeners use dead fridges or freezers, as the temperature and humidity within are constant and they are rat and mouse-proof.



CRUNCH TIME: Apples are best when picked straight from the tree, but you can make them last longer and retain their crunch by storing them properly

However, you do have to cut holes in the door or lid seal to allow some air in.

A simpler method is just to lay the apples in trays on a bed of crumpled or shredded newspaper and keep them in a frost-free, cool dark place which isn't too dry. They will also store successfully in large, loose plastic bags with air holes punched in them.

Preparing apples for storage may also help their longevity.

You can do this by initially leaving them in a cool, airy place for a couple of days to sweat out any excess moisture and then put them out at night on a chilly but frost-free evening and store them first thing in the morning before they have warmed.

A garage or shed, where the temperature remains constant, is probably the best place to store them. If you don't have that room, put them in the salad drawer of the fridge.

If fruits are carefully picked and are devoid of bruises or blemishes which may cause them to rot, they should last until Christmas.

Good varieties which will keep for ages include Granny Smith, Tydeman's Late Orange and Brownlees Russet.

Early apples are best eaten off the tree, as they go pappy in a few days, while mid-season apples are best eaten as soon as they've been picked, although many will keep for weeks if picked just under-ripe and stored in the cool.

Don't store early varieties with lates, and don't keep them near pears, onions, garlic or potatoes as they will cross-taint.

Apples which are individually wrapped in paper keep longer. Any showing signs of disease or rotting should be immediately removed before it spreads to nearby fruits.

If you want to reduce the risk of disease earlier on in the season, remove crowded, congested and damaged apples from the tree while they are still growing. This improves the size and quality of those remaining and prevents biennial bearing, where a tree is stuck in a cycle of producing masses of fruit one year and then missing the next because it's so exhausted.

Apples should be thinned after the mid-summer June drop occurs, and at least twice again afterwards.



RACK: Stackable apple rack, from £18.95 for a single tier, from Harrod Horticultural, www.harrodhorticultural.com.

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It's seed gathering season

By **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

BEFORE you ditch those tired summer container plants, cut down your perennials or dig up the bolted veg from your allotment, spend a little time gathering seeds to give you an abundance of flowers and fruits next year.

Self-seeders include annual poppies, foxgloves, lady's mantle, aquilega and love-in-a-mist, which will pop up all over the place in future years. If you want a more organised display, collect the seeds before they self-sow, so you can control where they appear in the garden.

Saving seed is an economical way to build up numbers of species to create drifts, but remember that seed from highly-bred plants won't come true and should be viewed as experimental only.

Seeds from many plants, including nasturtium and nigella, should be stored in paper envelopes in a cool, dry place until you are ready to sow them under cover in early spring.

Choose a still, sunny day to gather seeds, looking for seed-heads that have turned brown and seem on the verge of splitting.

Collect semi-ripe seedheads of rock plants and perennials in paper bags, hanging them in a dark, well-ventilated place. Seedheads from some species will open, releasing the seed into the bottom of the bag, making it easy to collect. Others need to be prised open to extract the seed.

Sieves

If you have a lot of early-flowering plants in your garden, they may have already self-seeded. Look around and you may be able to save some of them, increasing your stock without having to sow seed. You can dig up the seedlings, pot them up and label the pots. They should be treated gently, like unrooted cuttings, until they become more established. Place the pots in a cold frame or in a shady part of the greenhouse. Alternatively let them grow on a shady windowsill indoors.

Newcomers to saving seeds may be worried about how to handle them. Some gardeners have a variety of sieves with different sized holes to filter the dust and other debris from the seeds.

The most important thing about saving seeds is to keep them dry. Ideally, store them in small paper envelopes in airtight jars in a dark, cool room. To keep moisture at bay, pop a sachet of silica gel crystals into the jar.

Gardeners who have an abundance of particular types of seeds may find a number of seed-swap forums and websites such as Seedy People (www.seedypeople.co.uk) and Over The Garden Gate (www.overthegardengate.net) useful to put them in touch with other seed-swappers.

The Tree Council is also encouraging gardeners to gather up tree seeds with the launch of its Seed Gathering Season, which runs until October 23.

This is the best time in the year to gather seeds from many of our more common trees. Conkers, acorns, birch cones, beechnuts, ash helicopters, rowan berries and apples are just some of the fruits and nuts ripe for gathering in the autumn and nurturing to grow into trees.

The Tree Council is encouraging the public to organise anything from guided walks to workshops and other activities to gather seeds, nuts and fruits to grow a whole range of trees.

When collecting your seeds, think carefully about where you will plant your young trees and consider their size when fully grown. In smaller gardens, go for smaller trees like rowan, hazel, birch and cherry, or shrubs like dogwood and the native viburnums (guelder rose and wayfaring tree).

• ***For details of events during Seed Gathering Season go to the treecouncil.org.uk.***



IT'S TIME: Save seeds and put them in envelopes to keep them dry for sowing in the spring



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Get handy

Get the job done with a little help from DIY guru **Julia Gray**

WHEN you are doing DIY, some of the most useful tools are multi-purpose ones, such as the Exakt Saw, which is designed to be a jigsaw, hand saw and circular saw in one.

The blade, the depth of which is adjustable, spins at 4,000rpm, making it straightforward to saw through almost any material – up to a depth of 12mm – including wood, tiles, plastic, slate, laminate and metal.

One of the best things about the saw is that it is small and easy to manoeuvre. It can even be hooked up to your vacuum cleaner so that sawdust is immediately sucked away – how clever is that? The saw costs £79.99 from www.JMLdirect.com.

If you are going to sand your floorboards, you'll need something to do the corners with, and the new Bosch PSM 80A multi-sander could be just the job. The sander uses Micro Velcro to keep the sanding sheets firmly in place (the sheets should last longer because they can be rotated for extended use), a high-performance 80W motor and a micro-filter integrated dust box, which is said to collect three times as much dust as other electric sanders – a great feature.

The Bosch PSM 80A costs around £34.99. See www.bosch-do-it.co.uk/diy.

SEASONAL TASK: The evenings are already pretty cold, and if you want your central heating to work efficiently then you may need to bleed the radiators. To do this, simply insert a radiator key or a small screwdriver (depending on the type of radiator) into the bleed valve on the radiator, which is usually at the top.

Before you begin, ensure that the radiator is turned off and cold, otherwise it's dangerous, and cover up the surrounding floor. Slowly turn the key/screwdriver until you hear a 'swooshing' sound, which is the air being expelled. When fluid starts coming out, quickly turn the key/screwdriver the other way to shut off the valve.

TOP TIPS FOR... sanding floorboards

- All protruding nails in your floorboards should be banged down with a nail punch, or a hammer and an off-cut of wood, so you don't damage the boards. If you leave any nails sticking up, they're likely to break the sanding sheets, which is annoying, time-consuming and expensive because you pay for each sheet you use.
- Before you start, clear the room, open the windows (but not the door) and seal off built-in cupboards with tape, as this is a hot and dusty job. When sanding, wear a mask and goggles.
- Don't start the industrial floor sander with the drum resting on the floor because this can damage the boards – lift it slightly. Walk the sander steadily across the floor in a diagonal direction, but don't linger in one spot because you'll create ridges in the boards. When you turn the sander off, ensure that the drum has stopped before setting it down.
- The coarseness of the sanding sheets you should use will be determined by the state of the boards. If they're black, use coarse sandpaper first, but be prepared to get through quite a few sheets because they will clog up quickly. If the boards are in better condition, try medium-grade sandpaper first. In both cases, finish off with fine sandpaper.
- As well as the sander, you will need to hire an edger because the sander will not reach right up to the shirking boards. It is a good idea to get someone to help with this job, then one of you can sand the main floor while the other one does the edges. You will not be able to get into the corners of the room, even with the edger, because its sanding sheets are round, so you will have to do this by hand or with a hand-held sander.



MULTI-PURPOSE: Exakt Saw, £79.99 from www.JMLdirect.com



SANDER: Bosch PSM 80A, around £34.99. See www.bosch-do-it.co.uk/diy

Ask the expert

Q I want to sand my floorboards, but some of the original boards have been replaced with modern boards. What should I do?

JT Canterbury

A You could move the modern boards so that they're concealed by furniture or a rug, or you could replace them with reclaimed period boards. Your local reclamation yard should have a selection of boards – take one of yours along to be sure of a good match. If you can't get an exact match, swap boards over and put the new ones in a less conspicuous place.

ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Carpet cleaning - without the hassle!!

A revolutionary dry carpet deep cleaning system, which leaves carpets beautifully clean and dry, and ready for immediate use is in Maidstone.

Home owners, hotels and commercial customers will be especially delighted with the service being offered by Maidstone based company The Cleaning Clinic, which not only leave carpets deep clean, but also completely dry. The host carpet cleaning system is based on technology which originated in America, and uses a three stage deep cleaning and water-free process which has recently won the 'Green Seal' of Approval and has been certified as a bio-preferred environmentally friendly product.

The Host carpet deep cleaning system has been developed specifically to meet the demands of today's fast expanding market for environment friendly carpet deep cleaning, care and maintenance. The Host system works in three ways. Firstly, a unique built-in high power brushing and vacuum cleaning system removes deep ingrained dry soiling right down to the carpet backing. Secondly, the dry cleaning technology integrates a controlled amount of safe cleaning ingredients suspended in a soft absorbent natural organic fibre, called host. Host works just like a sponge dissolving and absorbing soil, spots and spills. The host carpet cleaning machine is then used to brush the environmentally friendly product through the carpet pile and the soil is extracted. Whilst the machine cleans it also produces a powerful pile lifting action which helps remove harmful dust allergens, mould spores, dust mites and fleas. Host leaves carpets clean, fresh, fragrant and dry.

The Cleaning Clinic also provides a very low moisture upholstery cleaning system using foam. Meaning very delicate fabrics can be cleaned and the furniture can be in use within an hour depending on the level of soil and type of fabric.



Proprietor Izzy Jones pictured above, who lives in Maidstone is using the system in your area.

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Interior designer Helle Clarke helps readers with their design dilemmas…



Question and Answer

Q We have had our house on the market for quite a few months. We know the market is bad, but what can we do to make our house more attractive to a potential buyer?

A • In a troublesome market you need to be extra patient, but these tips should give you an idea of what people tend to prioritise.

- Buyers notice the quality of paintwork. Walls covered in strong colours quite often put them off
- Beware of any damp. People are easily scared away by any potential extra costs affiliated with buying a new property
- New kitchens and bathrooms are always a great seller
- Properties which are cramped with furniture and trinkets are harder to sell
- Badly done DIY is a real put off. Make sure you have any DIY properly finished, such as badly done grouting, missing skirting boards and doors that don't close properly.
- Make sure any odours from pets are avoided
- Make sure your hallway is not overflowing with coats, boots and bags etc. It will make the hall seem small and untidy.

Q Have you got any advice on good storage for my daughter's bedroom? Her room is overflowing with toys.

A A good sturdy bookcase of a nice size and lots of either plastic or wicker boxes for all those toys. You can label them so that it is easier for her to clear up.

Children are great consumers of things, because they grow up and outgrow their toys and gadgets so fast.

They need new things all the time, so the best advice I can give you is to keep clearing out things that she has outgrown. If you don't, it just ends up as a big mess. If you do it often gets much more manageable.

Extensions ideal way to add value

THERE are many ways to improve a home, but not all of them are worthwhile if an increase in value is the main objective.

There are improvements that pay, and some that don't, according to the Halifax.

It said a decent conservatory can be of a huge benefit when it comes to selling, so long as the buyers like them of course.

A spokesman said: "Adding a conservatory to your home can also be a relatively low cost, hassle-free way to extend your living area and can reap a good return in terms of adding value to your home."

A full extension is also a good route to add value to a property, they said, especially in the few areas where prices are still rising.

It said: "You'll need an architect to draw up plans and a good one will can make suggestions to maximise the space and quality and therefore the investment."

The same goes for lofts. The Halifax spokesman said: "Done properly, a lost conversion can also add substantial value to your home."

Attached garages can be easily converted, but consider carefully as they use up one asset for another. Even those that are not attached can be turned into offices, which has become a big trend.

"This often provides an ideal solution to home working – your office is on the doorstep and you are away from the distractions of the main house."

Other ways to add value is to have a landscaped garden, nice bathroom, double glazing, and a new central heating system.



See the light

MENU, the innovative Danish design company, has launched two candle holders which will fit into any type of décor, be it traditional, modern or classic, ***writes Helle Clarke***.

Menu's new elegant double candle holder in mirror finish steel is obviously inspired by dance and movement.

The straight, robust bodies and the curved, slim arms appear both masculine and feminine at the same time.

When you place the candle holders closely together, they seem to unite in a dancing embracement.

Menu's versatile Quarter candle holder consists of slightly curved joints that can be assembled with discreet magnets.

It is so flexible that you can use it for any occasion: a romantic dinner for two or on a long party table for 50.



You can scatter the Quarter candle holders all over the table, or put them together as a symmetric whole.

Or why not create an elegant advent candle holder by putting four Quarter joints together as a circle? A set consists of four joints with magnets and is just perfect for that purpose.

The Quarter candle holder offers infinite combination options as it can be extended with more and more sets.

The double candleholder (left) retails at £89 and the Quarter (above) at £99.



Grow your own with Dirty Nails

October on the plot

Planting broad greens

IN mid-October, Dirty Nails will be getting his broad beans in the ground. Broads sown now come to fruition before a March planting.

There are two big advantages to this. Firstly, the more advanced autumn sowing is rarely attacked in late spring by broad bean Enemy Number One, the blackfly, because it has passed the vulnerable stage when these pests are on the loose. Secondly, the broad bean season is advanced by two or three weeks.

Several varieties of broad will over-winter quite happily, but 'Aquadulce' is a particularly reliable and early cropper. If the winter turns very cold then they will appreciate protection via a horticultural fleece. Dirty Nails will be keeping his fingers crossed for a delicious and nutritious meal of autumn-sown broads before the end of May.

He prepares the plot firstly by weeding thoroughly, then digging in some fresh compost and raking level.

At this time of year the soil is often quite damp, so he lays down wooden planks adjacent to where he wants to mark his rows and works from these.

The planks spread his bodyweight, minimising soil compaction, trampling and mess. Dirty Nails marks out the rows with canes and string, allowing 8 inches (20 cm) of space between.

The thumbnail-sized beans are simply pressed into the fluffy soil to a depth of 3 inches (7cm). This is slightly deeper than for spring-sown broads, but the extra snugness helps them to endure the worst of the winter weather. The beans are planted at 6 inch (15 cm) intervals. All being well, they should make a few inches of sturdy growth between now and New Year, then sit tight and wait for the spring rush.







SUNDAY BEST: Plant your broad beans now (main pic), but leeks (top left) and parsnips (left) are now ready to be uprooted for your Sunday roast

Sunday feast

Dirty Nails usually has to loosen his trousers at the end of the week. Sunday is family feast day, with many winter favourites now on the menu. A lot of work in the veg garden in the coming months will simply involve harvesting what is to be eaten that day.

Lifting parsnips and other root veg for roasting cannot be hurried. Extracting a foot (60cm) long scorzonera thong in one piece is a challenge and achievement in itself.

Swedes demand to be admired and their heady scent inhaled deeply before being washed, trimmed, peeled and cooked into a mash with spuds from store.

Leeks are in season from now until March. Different varieties are cultivated to mature throughout both autumn and winter. Digging leeks for same-day consumption is a thrill in any weather.

Fresh from the ground, they exude the most wonderful aroma. Being outside, trimming the roots and 'flag' from a leek as dusk approaches, is about as good as it gets for Dirty Nails, second only to eating the bounty.

• ***'How to Grow Your Own Food' by Dirty Nails (How To Books: ISBN 978-1-905862-11-5) is available at bookstores and online, priced £10.99.***

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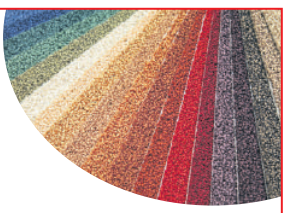
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Please ring Jay Drake on 01732 458762 or Rockdale House on 01732 454763 for a chat/application form.

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Faversham Residential Home

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For further details please telephone 01795 532629 between 10am - 4pm

Nampak Cartons, one of the Country's leading Carton Manufacturers has a vacancy at their Gillingham site for:

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(on a job-share basis)

Reporting to the Customer Services Manager, you will be expected to work Monday – Friday, 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. (although there is a possibility of working until 5.30 p.m. if preferable). You will also be expected to work full-time during all school holidays.

If you are interested in the above role (a job specification is available upon request) then please send a covering letter with a copy of your current CV stating your salary expectations to:

HR Department, Nampak Cartons, Grosvenor Road, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0SA or email Stephanie.Porter@eu.nampak.com

Closing date for applications
Friday 17th October 2008

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Ideal candidate will be processing orders, answering sales calls, processing faxed and emailed orders, ringing existing account holders to request orders and must be computer literate, hard working and enthusiastic.

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Please apply in writing, enclosing your CV, to: The Personnel Manager, Anchor Catering Ltd., Unit 2 Wotton Trading Estate, Wotton Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 6LL or by e-mail to mail@anchorcatering.co.uk Telephone: 01233 665533

HOWLETTS WILD ANIMAL PARK

Committed to Conservation

Meat Preparation Operative

£16k - £18k depending on experience

Howletts Wild Animal are looking for an honest and reliable individual to prepare meat for the wild animals of the park in our new purpose built meat yard.

Based at Howletts Park your duties will include: daily butchering of domestic livestock for animal consumption, transporting meat from Howletts to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, 30 minutes away, incineration of carcass residue in a new commercial incinerator maintaining hygiene standards of the meat yard, maintain necessary paperwork to meet current D.E.F.R.A legislation, visit farms to build up supplies, handle money.

You will be required, on occasion to assist the animal keeping staff in their general duties.

Candidates must have a full valid driving licence, be physically fit as the majority of the work is physically demanding. Firearms licence holder is preferred as you will be required to euthanize farm stock. For this reason you will be required to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau check prior to starting work

Ideally you should have previous experience gained in a slaughter house or butchers but training will be provided if necessary.

Working 40 hours a week, five days out of seven, 8.00am - 5.00pm, you will be required to work some weekends and bank holidays

To Apply

Please send a CV and covering letter (stating the position applied for) to:

Neil Spooner, Animal Director, Howletts Wild Animal Park, Bekesborne Lane, Nr Canterbury, Kent. CT4 5EL. E-mail: personnel@howletts.net.

HOWLETTS & PORT LYMPNE WILD ANIMAL PARKS

Committed To Conservation

Marketing Manager

Temporary post to cover maternity leave

The renowned wild animal parks, Howletts and Port Lympne are one of the biggest attractions in Kent.

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You will be positive, bright and articulate with excellent communication skills and man management skills with the drive and ambition to deliver results.

Your main duty is to increase visitor numbers and to protect the integrity of the brand. You will be responsible for executing the marketing plan for both parks, events, weddings and corporate products, dealing with outside consultants, managing and developing the marketing team and the company website.

Good budget control skills are essential as you will be responsible for a marketing budget of £400k.

The ideal candidate will have a marketing background managing above and below the line campaigns and have experience in e-marketing.

We are looking for applications from people who have the relevant skills and experience to make a positive impact to our organisation.

Applications should include your CV and cover letter outlining your suitability and salary expectations. Please send applications to:

Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Nr Hythe, Kent CT21 4PD. Or e-mail:helendj@howletts.net

For more information and to gain an understanding of our company please visit out web site: www.totallywild.net before applying.

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Appointments continued from page 34

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Effective from June 2008

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Jenny Spooner, our Personnel Manager, is administering the appointment process. Please email her for details at Jennifer.spooner@marloweacademy.co.uk, as well as the chance to tour the Academy with our Principal, Ian Johnson. The closing date for applications is Friday 17th October 2008. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Closing Date Friday 17th October 2008

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Ref: ASH 159
Band 5: £20,225 - £26,123
Canterbury and Swale Locality

Would you like to help people to stop smoking? Are you interested in improving peoples' health? If you are, then we may have the right job for you.

You will join a lively and committed Stop Smoking Team which carries the responsibility for developing and delivering services, including individual one-to-one and group sessions. You will join the service at a time of expansion and challenge in order to contribute to the achievement of local and national stop smoking targets.

Excellent communication skills and an understanding of motivational interviewing techniques and/or counselling skills are essential. Relevant work experience may include: general nursing, health visiting and midwifery, smoking cessation, counselling, addiction services or experience involving substantial interpersonal and communication skills. An understanding of the issues around stopping smoking will be an advantage but is not essential, as training will be given. Experience of working with minority groups will be an advantage. You will be expected to work flexibly and on your own initiative, within an agreed framework, as well as being part of a team. The post will involve extensive travel: travel expenses incurred in the course of your duties will be reimbursed. You should also have the flexibility to work at various venues across East Kent.

() Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau*

(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For an informal discussion please contact Helen Miller on 01304 828742.

For further information and to apply, please visit

www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

Closing date: 10 October 2008.

We are an equal opportunities employer

Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

Spires Academy

Bredlands Lane, Sturry,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD

NOR: 340

Principal: Mr Ian Johnson

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Director of Learning for Mathematics

MPS +TLR - £10,303

Following the promotion of the previous post holder to a senior management position, we will be appointing his permanent replacement from 1st January 2009.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and talented colleague to join our Team. Building upon the success of the Montgomery School during its final years, Spires had a very good first year. Year 7 numbers have doubled, GCSE results with English and Maths shot up from 18% to 32%, and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Maths results last year were the best of the core subjects, testimony to the quality of teaching and organisation of the curriculum. There is, however, real potential for improvement as well as the opportunity to teach at Sixth Form level through our link with the Marlowe Academy.

Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the school as part of the application process.

Please email our Personnel Manager, Marion Wigington, on m.wigington@spiresacademy.com for further details of how to apply.

Closing date: 10.00am on Friday 10th October
Interviews scheduled for the following week.

http://www.spiresacademy.com

The Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT10 1HQ
Tele: 01843 593326 www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Team Leader Vacancy

Team Leader for Mathematics
Salary Leadership Scale L13 – L14

Now in its fourth year, Kent's first Academy continues to challenge traditional approaches and to drive up standards – over twenty students have now gone on to university and last year's 5A*-C GCSE figure topped 50%. Real progress has been made with the 2011 National Challenge, but we believe that the creation of this Leadership Team post is crucial to our continued success.

The successful candidate will at least have:

- relevant middle leader experience;
- a background in Mathematics;
- energy, drive, commitment and ambition;
- and excellent communication skills.

Jenny Spooner, our Personnel Manager, is administering the appointment process. Please email her for details at Jennifer.spooner@marloweacademy.co.uk, as well as the chance to tour the Academy with our Principal, Ian Johnson.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10th October 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you.

A new dance company in kent is looking to recruit

DANCE TEACHERS

to teach for an hour a day, from one to five days per week. We run fun freestyle dance classes and are looking for people who are passionate about dance and have had some experience working with young people.

If you are interested please call 07896198442

FORT PITT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS COLLEGE
Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent ME4 6TJ
Tel: 01634 842359 Fax: 01634 817386
Email: office@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Julia M Bell, BA (Hons)
Age range 11-18 (6 f.e.) NOR 920 girls 200 in Sixth Form

Full-time/Part-time Teacher of:

PSYCHOLOGY

If your dream job is to teach, then Fort Pitt Grammar School in Chatham is the school for you! You won't find a school with more hard-working, talented young students that like a challenge. The girls at Fort Pitt are always willing to learn new things. So if you want to teach some of the most intelligent minds in Kent; come to Fort Pitt. (Rebecca Y9).

All offers of employment will be subject to successful references and an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For further information please contact Mrs J M Bell, Headteacher. Applications by letter and C.V including the names and addresses of two referees.

Closing date for applications is 4.00 p.m. 15th October 2008.

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills **Our Vision**



NHS
Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts.

Why not join us?

STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
- Occupational sickness benefit
- Lease car scheme for eligible staff
- Occupational health service
- Childcare
- Enhanced maternity pay
- Enhanced paternity pay
- Enhanced adoption pay
- Flexible Working Policies
- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
- In-house discounts & external benefits

SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL

Senior Information Analyst
Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Templar House, Ashford
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH160
Closing date: 8/10/08

Admin and Clerical Clerk in District Nursing
Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Ashford
Hours: 10
Ref: 767-EIC496
Closing date: 9/10/08

Admin Assistant in Commissioning and Performance
Salary: Band 2 £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Location: Margate
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH157
Closing date: 10/10/08

Receptionist Clerical Officer
Salary: Band 2 £12,922 - £15,950 pa
Location: Queen Victoria Maritime Hospital
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC515
Closing date: 15/10/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Contraceptive & Reproductive Health Nurse
Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Cantebury Health Centre
Hours: 7
Ref: 767-ASH158
Closing date: 8/10/08

Trainee Nurse Practitioner
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Royal Victoria Hospital
Hours: 20
Ref: 767-EIC440
Closing date: 10/10/08

Community Nurse - District Nursing
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Deal
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-EIC497
Closing date: 16/10/08

Community Nurse - District Nursing
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Margate
Hours: 30
Ref: 767-EIC499
Closing date: 16/10/08

Community Nurse - District Nursing
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Ramsgate
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC498
Closing date: 16/10/08

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Nurse
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Location: Protea House, Dover
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH125
Closing date: 17/10/08

Community Health Nurse, Universal Services
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 - £26,123 pa
Location: Ashford
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC517
Closing date: 15/10/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Pharmacy Technician Medicines Support Service
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Protea House, Dover
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECS502
Closing date: 17/10/08

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Dental Officer
Salary: £36,792 to £57,232 pa pr
Location: Deal/New Romney/Ramsgate
Hours: Full and Part Time hours available
Ref: 767-ECS458
Closing date: 17/10/08

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Health Promotion Practitioner
Salary: Band 5 £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Location: Whitfield Court
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ASH159
Closing date: 10/10/08

Health Care Assistant
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Location: QVMH, Herne Bay
Hours: 9.5
Ref: 767-ASH088
Closing date: 10/10/08

Public Health Business Manager
Salary: Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Location: County Hall, Maidstone
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-ECC513
Closing date: 15/10/08

Children's Primary Mental Health Worker
Salary: Band 6 £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Location: Drapers Mills School, Ramsgate
Hours: 22.5
Ref: 767-ECC501
Closing date: 20/10/08

Community Cardiac Support Worker
Salary: Band 3 £14,834 - £17,732 pa
Location: Dundee House, Ramsgate
Hours: 37.5
Ref: 767-EIC507
Closing date: 15/10/08

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

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northfleet technology college

Colyer Road, Northfleet
Gravesend, Kent DA11 8BG
Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following:

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in the subject of English. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

Salary will be £15,113

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast.

NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details. An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk. Closing Date is Friday the 17th of October

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www.classiceducation.co.uk

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To advertise in this section

01303 817040



The Royal School of Military Engineering Instructors

Salary £28,219 - £30,312

Mid Kent College (MKC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We will provide the trades and technical engineering training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

If you are a qualified & experienced Trades Engineer looking for a change in career, then this could be the ideal opportunity for you.

For Trades roles, you are unlikely to have formal teaching experience but this is not essential as we will provide you with the skills you need and work with you to help you gain the appropriate teaching qualifications.

If the prospect of passing your skills onto Royal Engineer sappers appeals to you, then consider the positions shown below and get in touch with us.

- Electrical Instructors
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Instructors
- Heating and Plumbing Instructors
- Fabrication Instructors
- Carpentry and Joinery Instructors
- Electrical and Mechanical Draughtsman
- Instructor Fitter - Engines
- Land Surveyors

These are key appointments and the successful candidates will need to demonstrate that they have the practical skills and knowledge of their trade and have the potential to develop into first class instructors. Training will be provided.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date Friday 17th October 2008

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunity employer

MKC Training Services Limited
at The Royal School of Military Engineering

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society.We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

Kent County Council

Little Forest Children's Centre, Tunbridge Wells

Community Involvement Worker

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum

37 hours per week

You will work as part of multi-agency team raising awareness in the community about the range of services on offer in the centre. For those families who do not use the Children's Centre, you will provide important information and access to services, ensuring that the views of children and their families and those of the wider community are sought and included in the development of services in the Children's Centre.

You will need to have strong interpersonal skills with a tactful and flexible approach. You will need to demonstrate a clear understanding of how to support the most vulnerable families to access services to improve the outcomes for children. The role will include the co-ordination of the recruitment, training and management of volunteers to support the running of the Children's Centre.

Ref: CFE/08/0497

Childrens Centre Cleaner

Starting salary £12,775, with progression through contribution related pay to £13,959 pro rata

15 hours per week

You will undertake the general cleaning of the establishment, including dusting, vacuuming, polishing, cleaning toilets, emptying bins etc to ensure that a clean and tidy environment is maintained.

You must been self-motivated and have a flexible approach to your work.

Ref: CFE/08/0498

Children's Centre Caretaker

Starting salary £13,959, with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 pro rata

30 hours per week

Providing general maintenance of the building, facilities and associated grounds, you will ensure the safety, security and sound conditions of the building. Other duties include setting up rooms for use, maintaining the outside area and becoming a key holder.

You must be self-motivated and have a flexible approach to your work.

Ref: CFE/08/0500

Closing date for the above posts: Midday, 21 October 2008.

Policy Support Assistant

Starting salary £16,627, with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 per annum

Maidstone

An interesting and varied vacancy has arisen within the busy Strategy, Policy and Performance Division.

Working within a confidential environment, you will have the ability to take comprehensive minutes of meetings and use your initiative to prioritise your workload to meet deadlines in a highly demanding environment.

You will have an excellent working knowledge of Word, Excel Outlook and PowerPoint, demonstrate a confident telephone manner and possess a high level of drafting skills. You will also have the confidence and ability to deal with a variety of multi-disciplinary professionals on a range of matters.

You will be a self-starter in order to provide effective personal and administrative support. **Previous applicants need not apply.**

Ref: CFE/08/0501

Closing date: Midday, 16 October 2008.

All of the above posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.



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The Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB
Tele: 01843 593326 – www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Teaching Vacancies for January 2009 for English and English & Drama and Physical Education

The Marlowe Academy offers students an innovative and exciting learning experience. We have outstanding purpose built facilities with the very latest ICT; in addition to laptops and PCs in classrooms, there are 200+ computers in learning bays outside teaching areas. The Academy boasts excellent sports facilities comprising of two multi function sports halls, international standard athletics track, football and rugby pitches, tennis courts and cricket square. These allow for every sport possible with excellent teaching staff to match. It is all very exciting!

This is an amazing opportunity for talented and ambitious professionals to join the academy. The posts would suit energetic and student focused teachers.

Please send a copy of your C.V. to the school or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk
Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone no: 01843 598550 or email to address above.
We look forward to hearing from you.
The closing date for post: Friday 17th October 2008

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Kent County Council

Programme Managers

Starting salary £20,061 with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum

This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in the development of Playing for Success Kent (PfS Kent). We are in a position to extend the project and will, therefore, be looking to make appointments at the following locations.

Ebbsfleet, Maidstone, Margate and Canterbury

Supporting the Centre Manager to lead an innovative Study Support Centre (part of the DCSF PfS initiative) based at any of the locations above, you will work in partnership with the Clubs and play an influential role in the LA's development of out of school hours learning.

The Centres are based in a purpose built, fully equipped classroom and will offer an exciting and challenging environment where young people in Key Stages 2/3 participate in out of school hours learning.

You will be responsible for planning, managing and delivering day time, evening and weekend programmes from the Centre by working closely with the Centre Manager, local schools, the Club, partners and the wider community.

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential.

Applications are welcomed from candidates with experience of working with a range of ages and experiences. You should also have experience of a range of educational contexts and ideally, of working with young people outside the classroom. An interest in sport would be useful.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss this post please contact:Christian Kelly (Playing for Success Kent Manager) on 07825 506584/christian.kelly@kent.gov.uk

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.
Please quote reference number CFE/08/0509.
Closing date: Midday, 21 October 2008.
Interview dates: week beginning 3 November 2008.



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www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

the University of Greenwich at Medway

PART TIME PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ADMINISTRATOR

Ref: 01086/K3

In this post you will liaise closely with the other part time Personal Assistant/Administrator to provide administrative support to the Head of School and other staff within the School of Engineering. You will perform the whole range of secretarial and clerical duties including taking minutes for meetings. We are looking for someone with Office Studies/Administration at NVQ 3 or equivalent relevant experience. You must have initiative but be able to work within a strong team ethos. You will have some tight deadlines and need to be well organised. You will be working with a wide range of people so excellent interpersonal skills are vital.

Hours of work 17.5 per week

Salary pro rata to £19,841 - £22,332 per annum

PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ref: 01087/K3

The School of Science employs around 90 staff and deals with about 2800 students. It runs undergraduate and post graduate degrees in a wide range of science subjects including biomedical, environmental, pharmaceutical and sports sciences.

You will work as part of a team liaising with School and University staff to improve student attendance. This involves the monitoring of attendance, the adherence to learning contracts and general compliance with University systems and regulations designed to support students.

Hours of work 21 per week.

Salary pro rata to £17,169 – £19,263 per annum

TECHNICIAN (FIXED TERM FOR 2 YEARS)

Ref: 01088/K3

You will work in a large University teaching laboratory in the general areas of chemistry and pharmaceutical science. The majority of the work will involve preparation for laboratory classes and assistance with projects for both undergraduate and MSc students.

You should be educated to at least A-level (or equivalent) and should possess good knowledge of working in a chemistry laboratory and be able to use appropriate equipment. Good IT skills are also required especially in the use of email, word processing and spreadsheets. You will be a team player and operate well under pressure.

This post is fixed term for 2 years.

Salary £17,169 - £19,263 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 21 October 2008.

the UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH



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Administrative Assistant - College Redevelopment

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/120
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

ADMINISTRATOR /SALES SUPPORT

Edenbridge
Salary: tba
Westerham Press are looking to recruit a friendly and confident individual to fill this temporary contract covering maternity leave. (Anticipated 12 months) The successful candidate must have excellent organisational skills and be able to communicate at all levels with a confident telephone manner. Must be computer literate with experience of Microsoft Office, in particular Word, Excel and Outlook. Duties will include providing administration support to the Sales Team and the Office Manager. This is a varied role performing general tasks, typing, filing and assistance to ensure compliance with our ISO14001 standard and Health & Safety commitments. The hours of work are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm. If this sounds like the position for you, please send your CV to: michelle.dowling@stiveswesterham.com Michelle Dowling, St Ives Westerham Press, Westerham House, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6EL.
To apply/more information:
Michelle Dowling,
St Ives Westerham Press Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email michelle.dowling@stiveswesterham.com

Assistant Buyer

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: Negotiable, dependent upon experience
Due to expansion, food wholesalers require an Assistant Buyer, to assist with all aspects of purchasing, stock control and data inputting. Please apply in writing or by email with CV and covering letter.
To apply/more information:
Georgina Davis
Turner Fine Foods
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email georgina@turnersfinefoods.co.uk

Departmental Secretary/ Administrator

Medway
Salary: Salary: £11,599 to £17,200
Closing Date: 8th Oct 08
The candidate will be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge of administration procedures and have excellent organisational and IT skills. Due to the nature of the role the successful candidate will be required to work independently.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0108
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

HR Advisor

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £18,375 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/119
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Service Desk Technician Level 2

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week,
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: SDT2
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

SERVICE SUPPORT DESK OPERATORS

Chatham
Salary: tba
Closing Date: 20 October 2008
If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.
To apply/more information:
Babcock Defence Services,
Quoting Job Ref: RSME 23C
Tel: 01634 847 043
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk,

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

WINDOW SERVICE ENGINEER

Sittingbourne
Salary: tba
Applicants should be experienced in the window industry; preferably with a history of installation work (the position may also involve some survey work). This is a full time long term position in a family run company. Salary Negotiable.
To apply/more information:
Kent Trade Frames
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 431600
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Call Allocator

Ashford
Salary: tba
We require a full time Call Allocator for our service centre. Hours:8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday, Sat 8.30-12pm on a rota. Good salary and benefits, including health care. C.V's to: Mr Pluckrose, Ashbridge Domestic Appliances, Unit 2, Bridge Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1BB.
To apply/more information:
Mr Pluckrose
Ashbridge Domestic Appliances
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Assessor Academy Coordinator

Tonbridge
Salary: £24,187 - £27,223 pa
Closing Date: 9th October 2008.
Playing a leading role in our successful college, you will be responsible for the set up and management of the South East Assessor Academy, a programme designed to recruit, train and develop an outstanding assessing team within the region. You will also work closely with the Adult and HE department to identify appropriate training methods. In addition, you will act as a personal tutor to all our students, making sure that their academic and pastoral wellbeing is in good hands. A graduate in a relevant field, you will have a good background in education and training delivery and also possess sound administrative and organisation skills. GCSE or equivalent Maths and English are both essential for this rewarding role. The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; lots of support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; Health & Fitness suite and more.
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 376511,
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Catering Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
25 hrs per week, 36 weeks term time.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/141
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

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01303 817040

Curriculum Support Assistant within Public Services and Security

Canterbury
Salary: Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/139
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Facilitators

Maidstone
Salary: Hourly Rate: £9.98 (including holiday component) Sessional Facilitators are required to work with and provide assistance to learners and Lecturers. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

Gravesend
Salary: Salary will be £15,113
Closing Date: 17th of October
In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following: Trainee placement on the Graduate Teacher Programme in English. The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University. The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in the subject of English. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently. Salary will be £15,113 This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees. We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details. An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk.
To apply/more information:
Northfleet Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 533802
Email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk

Hourly Paid Facilitators

Medway
Salary: Hourly Rate: £8.93 (£9.98 including holiday component)
Closing Date: 8th Oct 08
We are looking to appoint hourly paid Facilitators to work with individuals/groups of learners on curriculum support programmes devised by the curriculum staff and/or CAST Tutors. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: SE01
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
applications@midkent.ac.uk

Hourly Paid Lecturers/ Facilitators

Maidstone
Salary: Hourly Rate: £19.74 - £32.39 (including holiday component).
• Civil Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Domestic Gas Trainer/Assessor • Brickwork • IT and Business • Catering • Healthcare • Public Services • Psychology • Childcare • Electrical Installation • Motor Vehicle • Assessors for Motor Vehicle Body & Paint Facilitators Hourly Rate: £9.98 (including holiday component) Sessional Facilitators are required to work with and provide assistance to learners and Lecturers. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.
To apply/more information:
Personnel department
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.

Learner Advisor

Medway
Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro rata
Closing Date: 8 October 2008
This is an exciting opportunity to join the Learner Services team as a Learner Adviser. The successful applicant will work in a front line area supporting existing and prospective learners whilst working with college staff to provide an excellent service. Initial sign-posting to internal and external agencies, good administration and I.T. skills, a flexible approach and the ability to work under pressure are all requisites for this customer focused position.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0131
Tel: 0800 783 1144
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Learning Support - Administration, Finance and Key Skills

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per
Closing Date: 13.10.08
18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/93
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer - Computer Games and Interactive Media

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
18.5 hours per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/54
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills - Catering and Hospitality

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
18.5 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/149
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Mechanical Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 05/81
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Personal Tutor

Medway
Salary: £19,736 - £25,441 pro-rata
Closing Date: 8th Oct 08
We currently have a number of opportunities for full-time and part-time Personal Tutors. As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification. When applying, please state clearly your preferred role.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0005
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Pre 16 Tutor

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum.
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/12
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Supply Computing Support Technicians

Canterbury
Salary: £14,535 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.1.08
Various hours available
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/CST
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturers

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
required in the following areas: First Aid S/FA Drama S/DRAMA Catering & Hospitality S/C&H Public Services S/PS Early Years S/EY Health & Social Care S/HSC.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assessors

Canterbury
Salary: £17,727 - £25,418 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13th October 2008
Various hours available
Cleaning S/ASS/CLE Security S/ASS/SEC Health & Social Care (CYP) S/ASS/HSC.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Supply Pre 16 Learning Support S/Pre

Canterbury
Salary: £16,364 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
Various hours available.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 16/LS
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Technician in Beauty

Ashford
Salary: £11,599 - £17,200
We are looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to provide guidance and support to learners and assists with the running of various Clinics. You will be able to demonstrate good organisational and communication skills and relevant experience within the beauty industry would be advantageous.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0559
Tel: 01634 845402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/140
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Work Placement Co-ordinatorer

Maidstone
Salary: Hourly Rate: £9.98 (including holiday component)
We require an hourly paid Work Placement Co-ordinator to assist with the placing, monitoring and assessing of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in their work placements. For further information please contact the Personnel department on 01634 884511.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 884511.
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Service Engineer and Installation Engineer

Kent
Salary: Salary Negotiable
To maintain and install all types of Amusement and gaming Equipment in the South East England Area. Company Vehicle Supplied. Current driving Licence required. Please note that only short-listed candidates will receive a reply. Contact Colin Miles.
To apply/more information:
Colin Miles
Ivor Thomas Amusements Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 0615050
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

ARMOURER and ARMS STORE OPERATOR

Chatham
Salary: tba
Closing Date: Monday 20 October 2008.
qIf you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.
To apply/more information:
Anita Owen,
Babcock Defence Services,
Quoting Job Ref: RSME 25C
Tel: 01634 847 043
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk

Advertise your latest vacancies here and online
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

STORESPERSON (AMMUNITION)

Chatham
Salary: tba
Closing Date: Monday 20 October 2008
If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.
To apply/more information:
Anita Owen
Babcock Defence Services
Quoting Job Ref: RSME 15C
Tel: 01634 847 043
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk,

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Network Application Technician (Advanced)

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £20,775 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: ATA
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Web Systems Developer

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £18,375 per annum
Closing Date: 13.10.08
37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/142
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobforkent.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Hythe
Salary: Negotiable
The GSE Group have exciting plans, for restoring and updating the elegant four-star Hythe Imperial Hotel, which boasts Spa, Golf and Conference facilities. We require an enthusiastic individual with a proven track record within the industry, to sell and develop the Imperial's potential as a leading conference & events venue, leisure break and destination hotel. The successful candidate will be sales orientated, highly motivated and committed to success. Excellent package offered, including company car and performance related bonus scheme. Please submit your CV to The General Manager, Hythe Imperial Hotel, Princes Parade, Hythe, Kent CT21 6AE or H6862-GM@accor.com.
To apply/more information:
Sue Barlow
GSE Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 501301
Email sue.barlow@gse-group.com

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing opportunities

Folkestone
Salary: tba
Closing Date: 17 October 2008.
Competitive salaries + excellent benefits packages .. Folkestone Here at Saga, we offer a wide range of quality insurance products that meet the needs of today's over-50s. Innovative direct marketing has played a huge part in our success, and we've built an enviable reputation as one of the leading players in the UK. Now comes the chance to bring your skills to this exciting environment. We have openings on a permanent and fixed-term basis for everyone from graduates (ideally with a relevant degree or equivalent) to experienced marketing professionals. There are opportunities to work on a variety of products on a broad spectrum of activities, including mailings and press campaigns. To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter, stating current salary and quoting reference SS254/KOS, to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, The Saga Building, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE.
To apply/more information:
Sally-Jane Plenge
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
human.resources@saga.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

DRIVERS (PSV, LGV, HGV and ADR QUALIFIED)

Chatham

Jobs by Email
JobsforKent.co.uk

Salary: tba
Closing Date: Monday 20 October 2008.
If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services.
To apply/more information:
Anita Owen
Babcock Defence Services
Quoting Job Ref: RSME 19-22C
Tel: 01634 847 043
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk,

PLANT OPERATORS (VEHICLE SERVICING)

Chatham
Salary: tba
Closing Date: 20 October 2008
If If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.
To apply/more information:
Anita Owen
Babcock Defence Services
Quoting Job Ref: RSME 17C
Tel: 01634 847 043
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk,

SERVICE/ AFTER SALES MANAGER

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 10 October 2008
Following the continued growth of our after sales departments both in Ashford and Canterbury, and with an appetite to continue this trend, it has been decided that this will be best achieved by having an individual focus on each site. We have a business need to achieve a high level of absorption along with above average level of customer retention including the 4+ market, therefore the right candidate will not only need to continue to financially deliver the high levels we are used to, but be in a position to develop, motivate and drive the team forward, whilst keeping a clear focus on offering an "outstanding customer experience" in line with the brand expectations and that of our customers. If you feel you are the right calibre person for the job, email a copy of your CV in the first instance or apply in writing to Mr Ray Kemp, Dealer Principal, Broad Oak BMW, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury CT2 7PX. No Agencies please.
To apply/more information:
Ray Kemp
Barretts of Canterbury
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email ray.kemp@broadoak.bmw-net.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE

Chatham
Salary: tba
Closing Date: Monday 20 October 2008
If you enjoy a challenging role please telephone 01634 847 043 or send your full CV along with a covering letter to HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk, quoting the job title and reference number. Alternatively, please send applications to Anita Owen, HR Manager, Babcock Defence Services, Collingwood Triangle, Khyber Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TS.
To apply/more information:
Anita Owen
Babcock Defence Services
Quoting Job Ref: REF: RSME 9C
Email
HRBDSMedway@babcock.co.uk

Personal Assistant/ Carer

Gillingham
Salary: £7 per hour
Required for young disabled man approx 10 hrs per week each £7 per hour.
To apply/more information:
Mrs Bhohi
Quoting Job Ref: 420
Tel: 01634 331667
Email
nurinderb@googlemail.com

Public Sector, Social Services

Public Rights of Way Officer (Definitive Map Review)

Maidstone
Salary: £20,061 - £29,920 per annum
Closing Date: Midday, 9th October 2008
(Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies) Kent County Council is seeking to appoint a Public Rights of Way Officer to join the busy Definitive Map Team, based at Maidstone. With over 6700km of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery, forward thinking and dynamic new initiatives. You will be responsible for assessing, investigating and promoting applications to add and amend public rights of way in accordance with the relevant legislation. You will be expected to liaise with the public, landowners and solicitors, carry out site inspections/meetings, historical research and attend Public Inquiries and Magistrates Courts when necessary. The post carries a high-volume workload so you will have an eye for detail and the ability to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will also be a team player, educated to HND/Degree level or equivalent in a related subject. The post requires a high level of motivation, good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues along with excellent organisational and communication skills. For more information, please call, email or visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs. Interview date: 14th November 2008.
To apply/more information:
Laura Wilkins
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: ER/08/0114
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

International Management Trainee

Canterbury
Salary: £30,000 OTE
Closing Date: 16th October 2008
International Management Trainees Do You Want An International Career?
International Management Trainees Meltwater News is one of the fastest growing companies in Europe. Personifying the very essence of drive and ambition, we have seen the rapid growth of 38 offices in Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia, Singapore, United Kingdom and United States within the last 4 years. Encouraging a humble and positive working environment, we take great pride in developing people and their careers. We are looking for talented individuals to join our Canterbury office. With a strong emphasis on sales, you will experience personal and professional growth at a fast pace. If you are the right person, with the right attitude, you will be given the opportunity to flourish within our European, Asian, African or US Management Program. Does Sydney, Hong Kong or Miami sound appealing? Well pay attention; this is what we are looking for… The Industry: - Fast paced world of online media monitoring The Job: - Business to Business sales - Strategic thinking on individual client needs - Negotiating long term contracts with directors & executives - Developing your own customer portfolio The Preferred Skills & Qualifications: - University degree (any discipline) - Strong communication & relationship building skills - Exceptional interpersonal & analytical skills - Sales experience ideal (not essential) - Excellent level of proficiency in written and spoken English We Are Offering: - Fun, cosmopolitan & diverse work culture - Accelerated promotion program - International career opportunities - £30K OTE If you would like the challenge of working for a vibrant international company, then polish your CV and apply via: www.meltwater.com or send applications directly to the email address below.
To apply/more information:
John Box
Meltwater News
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 863665
Email recruitment.canterbury@meltwaternews.com

Part Time Assistant Florist

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: TBA
Please apply in writing to Isle Craft Flowers, 278 Minster Road, Sheppey ME12 3LR.
To apply/more information:
Isle Craft Flowers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email pdoucy@aol.com

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Charlotte Barber of New Barn Farmhouse, Hawkenbury, Staplehurst to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Martin Alford, Head of Registration,
Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

LJM CARPENTRY AND JOINERY LIMITED
Company Number: 05812503

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 2.30 pm on 9 October 2008 at 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EY, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EY, on 7 and 8 October 2008 the two business days before the date of the meeting.
Dated: 29 September 2008
By Order of the Board
L Muggridge, Director

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PLACES) REGULATIONS 2007
NOTICE OF DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES

Following consultation, the following areas will be regarded as Designated Public Places under the terms of the above Act as of 5 October 2008.

- Tonbridge Town Centre including the High Street and surroundings roads.
- Snodland
- Wrotham
- West Malling including the High Street and surrounding roads
- Borough Green and Platt
- An area of Leybourne including Oxley Shaw Lane and London Road and surrounding roads.

The above designated areas exclude places which are not a public place as defined by the above Act and excludes licensed premises as defined under S14 of the Criminal and Justice Act 2001. Maps showing the designated areas can be viewed at www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk

The effect of this order will be that, within designated areas, the police may require any person in the designated area not to consume intoxicating liquor and/or to surrender anything in his/her possession which is intoxicating liquor or a container for intoxicating liquor. Any person who continues to drink alcohol in the designated area when asked not to do so by a police officer commits a criminal offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of £500. Any person failing to surrender any intoxicating liquor to a police officer may be arrested.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

The Insolvency Act 1986
DILLINGER SCOTT PROPERTY SERVICES LIMITED
(Company Number 04766844)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Redfern House, 29 Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EH, on Thursday 16 October 2008, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at The Redfern Partnership, Redfern House, 29 Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EH, during the two business days preceding the date of the meeting.
Dated 30 September 2008
By Order of the Board
Michael Arnold, Director

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that we, Hop Farm Trading Ltd, have applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as the Hop Farm Country Park, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6PY in respect of the following licensable activities:–

- Sale of Alcohol
- Provision of Regulated Entertainment
- Provision of Late Night Refreshment

The application can be viewed at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ, during normal office hours, www.tmbc.gov.uk.
Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the above local authority, clearly stating the grounds upon which representation is made relevant to the Licensing Act by 28th October 2008.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine, level 5 on the standard scale, is a maximum of £5,000 for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.
Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents on behalf of the applicant.

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Haine Road Ramsgate)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway reconstruction works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Haine Road Ramsgate from the new roundabout A256 New Haine Road for 50m in length northbound along Haine Road on or after 22 October 2008 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 New Haine Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Adelaide Gardens, Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new gas supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Adelaide Gardens, Ramsgate from its junction with Albert Street to its junction with Liverpool on or after 7 October 2008 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Albert Street and Liverpool Lawn.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TUMBLEFIELD ROAD, STANSTED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tumblefield Road, Stansted between the junctions of Wrotham Hill Road and Labour In Vain Road on or after Monday 20th October 2008 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Tumblefield Road is southbound traffic via Plaxdale Green Road, Labour In Vain Road Tumblefield Road and for northbound traffic visa versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a Washout on a water main. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Section 14 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Order prohibiting and restricting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto:-

1 Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road (Necessary highway maintenance), that traffic on various roads in Tunbridge Wells in Column 1 of the schedule 1 hereto should be prohibited or restricted. The alternative route for each route is described in Column 2.

2. The works as cited in 1. above will also require the suspension of the bus lane on Mount Pleasant Road opposite the War Memorial and the prohibition of traffic other than buses and cycles going through the Five Ways bus gateway.
The provisions of the Kent County Council (A263 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells) (Combined Cycle and Bus Lane) Order 2003 and the provisions of Articles 8 and 10 of the Kent County Council (Traffic Restrictions) (Five Ways) Order 1998. are hereby suspended whilst the provisions of this Order are in force.

3. Therefore, in exercise of its aforementioned powers, the Kent County Council hereby makes an order that:
 a) Through traffic on the roads described in Column 1 of the Schedule 1 hereto should be prohibited as detailed.
 b) The Mount Pleasant Road bus lane and Five Ways bus gateway is hereby suspended.
The order will come into operation on or after 7th October 2008 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to18 months or until the works are completed. (Whichever is sooner).

4. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads in Tunbridge Wells)

(Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2008".
SCHEDULE 1

The affected routes (Column 1)	The alternative routes (Column 2)
A262 Cranbrook Road, Goudhurst From B2079 Balcombes Hill to A229 Angley Road.	Eastbound traffic via B2079 Balcombe Hill, Bedgebury Road, Lady Oak Lane, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, High Street, A229 Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst Road, Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road and Cranbrook Road, (and vice versa for Westbound Traffic).
Southbound traffic on A267 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells between A26 Mount Ephraim/ St Johns Road to C389 Upper Grosvenor Road	Southbound traffic - via A26 Mount Ephraim, London Road, A264 Church Road, A263 Mount Pleasant Road, A263 Grosvenor Road.
Suspension of the bus lane on Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells opposite the War Memorial and the prohibition of traffic other than buses and cycles going through the Five Ways bus gateway.	Not Applicable
B2023 Prospect Road, Tunbridge Wells From Calverley Park Gardens to Bayham Road.	Southbound traffic via A264 Calverley Park Gardens, Crescent Road, A263 Mount Pleasant Road, B2023 Grove Hill Road (and vice versa for Northbound Traffic)

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(QUEENS ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (TEMPORARY ONE-WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic traveling in a north-eastbound direction on Queens Road, Tunbridge Wells. This restriction will be introduced in sections between the junctions of Upper Grosvenor Road and St John's Road. The order will become effective on or after Monday 6th October 2008 and will be in operation at times when required over a period of 12 weeks when indicated by signage on site or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for north-eastbound traffic is via St John's Road, Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, then either Park Road, Chilston Road/Dunstan Road depending on the stage of the works.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is John Adsley on 07774 983419.

For further information, please contact Geoff Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Templer Way, Ashford) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Thin Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Templer Way, Ashford from its junction with Chart Road to its junction with A20 Maidstone Road on or after 6 October 2008 for an estimated period of one week (19.30hrs - 05.00hrs) or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for HGV traffic over 4.1m/13'6" will be via A292 Maidstone Road, New Street, Somerset Road, Station Road, C142 Beaver Road, A2042 Romney Marsh Road, B2229 Norman Road, C142 Beaver Road, Beaver Lane, B2229 Brookfield Road and A28 Chart Road.

The route for non HGV vehicles under 4.1m/13'6" will be via A28 Ashford Bypass, A292 Maidstone Road, New Street and A28 Chart Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 6 October 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(The Street, Godmersham) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because an inspection of a railway bridge is proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on The Street, Godmersham from the junction with Ashford Road to the junction with Olantigh Road, on 8 October 2008, for an estimated period of one day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road, Bramble Lane, Churchfield Way, High Street and Olantigh Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WHITEHILL, CHALLOCK) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on White Hill from the junction of the A28 to the junction of the A251 on or after Monday 6th October 2008 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via the Faversham Road (A251), Wye Road and Canterbury Road (A28).

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay and repair cables, should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Bob Penfold on 07733122670.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Best Lane, Canterbury) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because the installation of a new gas supply is proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury from Orange Street to the junction with St Peter's Street, on or after 20 October 2008, for an estimated period of three days or until such works are complete.

The diversion route for through traffic is via St Peter's Street and The Friars. Access to the car park will be via signage on site.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Charles Street, Herne Bay) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because provision of water supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Charles Street, Herne Bay between the junctions with Cooper's Hill and North Street, on or after 22 October 2008, for an estimated period of three days, or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via North Street, High Street, Beach Street, Mortimer Street, William Street and Charles Street

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes
Charles Street	From the junction with Cooper's Hill to the junction with North Street	Via North Street, High Street, Beach Street, Mortimer Street, William Street and Charles Street
Charles Street	Suspension of existing one way traffic order between William Street and Cooper's Hill	N/A

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Various roads, Hougham Without, Dover) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because water mains renewal works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Hougham Without as described in column one of schedule to this order on or after 20 October 2008 for an estimated period of 5 months or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1A			
Crooks Court Lane	From the junction with Satmar Lane to the start of Gravel Lane	Via Hougham Court Lane, B2011 Folkestone Road, B2011 New Dover Road, Winehouse Lane and Satmar Lane	From 20 October 2008 for 5 weeks
Phase 1B			
Gravel Lane	From the end of Crooks Court Lane to the junction with Hougham Court Lane	Via Hougham Court Lane, B2011 Folkestone Road, B2011 New Dover Road, Winehouse Lane and Satmar Lane	From 17 October 2008 for 7 weeks
Phase 2			
Hougham Court Lane	From its junction with Gravel Lane to its junction with Plough Hill	Via Plough Hill, B2011 Folkestone Road and Hougham Court Lane	From 1 January 2009 for 7 weeks
Phase 3			
Plough Hill	From its junction with Hougham Court Road to its junction with B2011 Folkestone Road	Via B2011 Folkestone Road, Hougham Court Lane and Hougham Top Road	From 16 February 2009 for 6 weeks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(High Street & Lower Road, Temple Ewell) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because BT duct installation works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on High Street & Lower Road, Temple Ewell at the junction with Mill Street on or after 20 October 2008 for an estimated period of 1 week or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via London Road Temple Ewell and Alkham Road.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE STREET, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (2) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on The Street, Meopham, Between its junctions with A227 Wrotham Road and Foxendown Lane.

The Order will become effective on 20th October 2008, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take seven days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A227 ~Wrotham Road, Green Lane, Camer Park Road and Foxendown Lane

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate a domestic connection to the sewer system.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TESTON LANE & LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Teston Lane from outside the property Westchester carrying on into Lower Road to the junction of Ewell Lane, West Farleigh on or after Monday 6th October 2008 for a period of up to 8 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Teston Lane is eastbound traffic via A26 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road, B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, High Street, B2010 Yalding Hill, Smith's Hill and for westbound traffic visa versa. The alternative route for Lower Road is southbound traffic via Lower Road, Dean Street, B2163 Heath Road, Ewell Lane and for northbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay new water mains. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

Highways - Districts of Shepway and Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Wey Street, Snave) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because renewing poles and cables works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Wey Street, Snave from the junction of the A2070 to the junction with Marsh Road, Ruckinge, on or after 20 October 2008, for an estimated period of five days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A2070; Marsh Road, Orlestone (known as Hamstreet); Cock Lane; Ruckinge Road; Marsh Road, Ruckinge; and Wey Street.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) AMENDMENT No2 ORDER 2008

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the effect of making the following road one way in a north easterly direction:-

CHURCH ROAD, NEW ROMNEY	From a point in line with the access road to Springwood Court to the junction with Station Road (approximately 25 metres)

The Order was signed on 3 October 2008 and will come into force 13 October 2008.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Hope Lane, Romney Marsh) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because bridge reconstruction works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hope Lane, Romney Marsh from immediately either side of Paternosterford bridge on 6 October 2008 for an estimated period of 3 months or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cockreed Lane, Ashford Road, and Unnamed Road to the junction with Hope Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Kennards Lane & Brack Lane, Brookland) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because replacement of aerial phone cable works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Kennards Lane & Brack Lane, Brookland as described in column 1 of that schedule to this order on 11 October 2008 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Kennards Lane, Brookland.	From its junction with Brack Lane to its junction with Grove	Brack Lane and Grove Lane	11 October for up to 2 days
Phase 2			
Brack Lane, Brookland.	From its junction with Grove Lane to its junction with Bowdell Lane.	Grove Lane and Bowdell Lane.	13 October for up to 3 days

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Staplestreet Road, DUNKIRK) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Staplestreet Road, Dunkirk between the junctions with The Street and Dawes Road, on or after 20 October 2008, for an estimated period of six weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Staplestreet Road, Staple Street, Bull Lane and The Street.

Highways - District of Thanet

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF FORT HILL, MARGATE,

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Margate Magistrates Court on 6th November 2008 at 10am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Fort Hill, Margate as shown in red colour on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit at, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and upon request at the offices of Kent Highway Services at Javelin Way, Ashford. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter please telephone Mr Andrew Smart at Kent Highway Services on 01622 798374 or email andy.smart@kent.gov.uk

For further information, please contact Geoff Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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INSIDE



Volvo unveil new eco range Page 58



Grand launch for Fiesta Page 59



Big surprise from Tepee Pages 62-63

New Mégane loses bustle and hustles the schmooze

By **STEVE LOADER**

RENAULT'S previous Mégane 'bustled' onto the motoring stage – however, its replacement will schmooze its way into the limelight.

The newcomer's styling is less controversial, but smarter and potentially longer lived than the outgoing car, which enjoyed great impact at launch with its controversial rear end 'bustle' and those equally sassy Groove Armada ads, yet looked saggy towards the end of its production run.

Order books are open for the primary version, the five-door Mégane Hatch arriving in late November priced from £13,995 to £18,795, while we can expect a more dramatic three-door Mégane Coupé variant in January, with an estate/tourer to follow.

The French marque says it has priced its replacement aggressively against the sector-leading Ford Focus and loaded standard equipment to include air con, electronic stability and understeer controls, six airbags, electric heated body coloured door mirrors and electric windows all round.

Options include a premium sound system, dual zone climate control and lots of styling and customising choices including a full body kit and panoramic sunroof.

The engine mix at launch is three petrol – 1.6 VVT 100, 1.6 VVT 110 and 2.0 TCe 180 – and three diesel – 1.5 dCi 86, 1.5 dCi 106 and 1.9 dCi 130.

The arrival of the Coupé should herald more choice and serious clout to power Renaultsport performance flagships – the current car's 'R'sport' diesel is a highly useable everyday car as well as power player.

Three trim levels are offered, using Renault's familiar Expression, Dynamique and Privilège labels, with the middle option expected to top sales; as well as standard kit mentioned earlier it comes with: 16-inch 'Sport' alloys wheels at least, up-spec sound system with Bluetooth, automatic lights and wipers, cruise control, hands-free Renault card keyless entry, height adjustable passenger seat, leather steering wheel and front fog lights.

This allows Renault to take Ford's Focus to task: the £15,845 Focus Zetec 1.6 Duratec is already at a £600 disadvantage to the Mégane Dynamique 1.6 at £15,245, even before taking into account sparser equipment compared with its French rival.

The Focus lacks automatic lights and wipers, Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control and rear electric windows – some £500 of equipment and a sizeable £1,100 premium once the purchase price is also taken into account.

And it concedes 10bhp in power and a six-speed gearbox as standard.

It might not be 'shaking its little a@*!' in the style of the last model's TV ads, but the Mégane is out to shake the opposition.

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07 57 VECTRA LIFE DIESEL AUTO 150 5 DR PAS AIR/C 2000 MILES....£12995
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07 57 FIESTA 1-6 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 6000 MILES£8995
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07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000MILES£8995
05 55 FIESTA 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE LEATHER 4000 MILES....£7995
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05 05 FUSION '2' 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 20000 MILES....£6495
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04 04 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO SALOON AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 28000 MILES....£7495
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Insignia's pitch is boosted by Glass's Guide

MARKET watchers at motor trade 'bible' Glass's Guide have aided Vauxhall's bid to hoist the new Insignia upmarket above the Vectra that it replaces.

Guide experts suggest that the new £18,962 Insignia 2.0 CDTi (130ps) SRi five-door will retain 37 per cent (£7,000) of its purchase price as a trade value after three years and 60,000 miles, compared with 28 per cent (£4,950) for the equivalent Vectra.

"Though starting prices are higher than those of the Vectra, Vauxhall has justified the increase by improving build quality and making it more entertaining to drive," said Glass's head of market intelligence Jason King. "This helps the car compete effectively with the latest generation of upper-medium segment rivals."

Over the same three-year 60,000-mile period, Eurotax-Glass's predicts lower trade values for equivalent Ford Mondeo (34 per cent), Citroën C5 (36 per cent) and VW Passat (35 per cent) models.



Volvo unveils its DRIVe eco range

VOLVO has broken cover with its take on greener motoring, using 'DRIVe' sub-branding to highlight the lower emissions and higher economy.

The cars are sub-120g/km diesel variants of the C30 SportsCoupé, S40 Saloon and V50 Sportswagon and priced from £15,410.

The low emissions place them in the lowest payable road tax band – band-B, which costs just £35 a year – and they can all achieve more than 60mpg. Production of these DRIVe models starts next month with UK deliveries in January.

Their greener credentials are achieved using lighter alloy wheels, tailgate spoiler, lower rear bumper diffuser and partly covered grille, but otherwise feature the same standard equipment, features, options and colours available in other S, SE and SE Lux models.

However, the DRIVe package is not available on sporty Volvo R-DESIGN models with the current 1.6D engine, as the additional bodykit and larger wheels and tyres prevent these from reducing the CO2 emissions below 120g/km.



New generation Golf BlueMotion

AVERAGING more than 70mpg, the next ultra-eco VW Golf BlueMotion will be even greener than VW's current champion miser, the much smaller Polo BlueMotion supermini.

Based on the next generation Golf family hatch, the new BlueMotion will also be completely exempt from road tax thanks to CO2 emissions of just 99g/km.

Currently on show as a concept, but certain to go ahead, the Golf BlueMotion uses a highly-efficient 1.6-litre TDI diesel developing 105 PS (103bhp) yet is still capable of hitting 62mph in 11.3 seconds.

The economy is enhanced by tweaks to the drivetrain/gearbox and aerodynamics, plus low rolling resistance tyres.

The next generation Golf goes on sale in January with the BlueMotion following around mid 2009.



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by STEVELOADER

Fiesta to launch with 'small car – big hurrah'

IT IS expected to be the market's most important new model launch for years, made more so by the soaring cost of motoring and the move to downsize.

Yet Ford seems to be leaving nothing to chance for the all-new Fiesta's market debut this month.

The company calls it the "most ambitious and integrated marketing campaign" it has ever undertaken – this from a company that usually throws the kitchen sink at launch promotions anyway.

The total package includes TV ads and sponsorship of The Fashion Show on ITV2, press advertising, internet and website, direct mail, outdoor press, radio, events and sponsorship and kicked off with a prime time TV ad during Channel 4's cult comedy series, Ugly Betty.

No prizes either for guessing that the Fiesta is targeting the young and trendy, using music, fashion, art, technology and film to highlight the new car's values and its new technology; the Mini and Fiat 500 have achieved cult status and big volumes and Ford would not mind a slice of that too, especially as it concentrates more and more on private sales rather than the hefty discount/low profit business market.

Priced from £8,695 – £155 less than its outgoing equivalent – the Fiesta's technical edge will be highlighted by the ultra-green diesel ECOnetic (from £11,845), which can average well over 70+mpg and emit a road tax exempt 98gm/km of CO2.

New Fiesta insurance ratings/costs and projected second-hand values are also much improved against the current range.

Within the compact confines of a supermini design brief, the Fiesta is also sharp on style.

Appetites were whetted by the stunning Verve concept car and Ford wanted both the five-door and three-door versions to have the same rakish coupé style, rather than see the former adopt a more 'practical' silhouette.



Interestingly, Ford also chose to keep the car's on-road 'footprint' close to the size of the previous car, while shedding around 40 kilos depending on powertrain and despite weight gained by new safety features and highly-touted new NVH or noise, vibration and harshness standards.

This decision bucks the recent trend towards bigger superminis such as the latest Vauxhall Corsa, Renault Clio, Seat Ibiza and Peugeot 207.

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*Source: Independent Market Research Sagitta Consultancy 2006. **Source: B E Stats June 2008.

Peugeot's people car will

DrivingReview



by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Peugeot Partner Tepee



QUESTION: does anyone know how many storage compartments there are in a Peugeot Partner Tepee?

I borrowed one for a week-long family jaunt around Normandy, but I bet the car returned to Peugeot with stuff we missed emptying out.

Still, I'm sure any lost cheeses will make themselves known…

The Tepee was a huge hit though it didn't have a promising start; 'er indoors has a way of summing up cars with a withering glance, but the budget French MPV didn't even rate a raised eyebrow.

I made conversation about how I had asked Peugeot for something 'quintessentially French' in which to amble around the Norman countryside.

"It's errr, a sort of replacement for the Partner Combi – you know, the one based on the van," I waffled. "Peugeot still makes that too, but this is a super new version based on the 308 car…"

The look' stopped me then – the 'I'm losing the will to live' one – so I shut up, loaded the car and we set off.

Five-year-old Sam was knocked out though – he loves any car where he can store loads of 'stuff' so the Tepee's lockers, ledges and cubbies were a treasure trove for stashing books, DVDs, toys and, the latest craze, model dragons… don't ask.

And then Mum started to get interested, as the relatively boxy Tepee bowled smoothly along the motorway to catch the ferry.

"Hmm, it's good isn't it?" she muttered

Hallelujah! She gets it.

And even as we went to board the ferry, we realised how many other people get 'it' too. The Tepee is too new to be a common sight – in fact, the car was often inspected by curious natives when we arrived in France – but there were loads of Francophile-owned Partner Combis and closely related Citroën Berlingo Multispaces and rival Renault Kangoo MPVs queuing for the boat.

These cars are perfect for the French rural lifestyle – van-based takes on those former Gallic workhorses, the Citroën 2CV and Renault 4.

But the Tepee goes further with a body that is funkier and less Postman Pat, sitting on a more sophisticated car chassis rather than the comfy yet slightly wallowy underpinnings of the Partner/Berlingo van.

It means (don't laugh) that despite sounding like a tent on wheels, the Tepee is actually a decent drive aided by decent engines. The test car had the top spec 107bhp 1.6-litre HDi diesel unit and a capacious cabin like the Tepee's would surely highlight any diesel vibration or harshness, but it just purred and showed the French marque's dominant position in the field, while economy was exceptional – the onboard computer rarely showed less than 40mpg and averaged around 50mpg.

We had one gripe; the rear seats don't rake so this made 'little un's' kiddie seat very upright and allowed his head to loll about when he was asleep, while Mum would have liked a more relaxed back rest when she was keeping him company in the back.

But the Tepee does so much else: it is a brilliant picnic wagon inside or out with sliding rear doors, versatile seating, all that storage and a huge and sheltering lift up tailgate clearing the heads of people well over six foot.

I particularly liked the 'letterbox' shelving above the front seats – great for all the travel documents, passports and so on for a journey like ours.

The test car also had the £550 Zenith roof with extra vents, roof lockers and more glazing to make the cabin even airier.

Okay, it isn't the most obvious head-turner, but the Tepee should steal your heart in the end.





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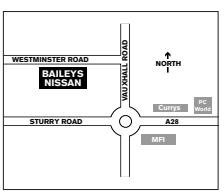
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On The Road Price	£15,399
Customer Deposit (Min. 30%)	£6,435
Amount of credit	£8,964
Optional Final Payment	N/A
Total amount payable	£15,399

0% APR* TYPICAL



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Micra 1.2 3/5dr CO2 139g/km URBAN 38.2mpg/7.4L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 55.4mpg/5.1L/100km – COMBINED 47.9mpg/5.9L/100km NOTE 1.4 CO2 150g/km - URBAN 35.8mpg/7.9L/100km - EXTRA URBAN 53.3mpg/5.3L/100km - COMBINED 44.8mpg/6.3L/100km QASHQAI 2.0 2WD CO2 192g/km - URBAN 26.4mpg/10.7L/100km - EXTRA URBAN 42.8mpg/6.6L/100km - COMBINED 34.9mpg/8.1L/100km

*Finance is available subject to status on eligible new vehicles registered between 01/07/08 and 30/09/08 in the UK to persons aged 18 or over. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Offers are available at participating dealers only. QASHQAI+2 will not necessarily benefit from the same offer shown for the QASHQAI. A minimum deposit of 30% is required on the QASHQAI 2.0 litre grades when purchased on 0% APR Hire Purchase. A minimum deposit of 10% is required on the QASHQAI 2.0 litre grade when purchased on 5.9% APR Preferences. Preferences examples based on an agreed annual mileage of 10,000 miles. Nissan Finance, a trading style of RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1EJ. **Includes £500 customer saving on Micra 25 Special Edition grades (customer savings are only available to eligible models registered in the UK). All prices include £55 first registration fee and road fund licence. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. This offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Models subject to availability. Micra 25 shown has optional metallic paint at £390 including 17.5% VAT, with NOTE at £400 including 17.5% VAT, QASHQAI at £435 including 17.5% VAT.

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DrivingStats

- Peugeot Partner Tepee Outdoor HDi 110 £15,305
- Range: £11,215-test car
- Garage stats: 4.38m by 2.11m five-door MPV
- Powertrain: 1,560cc/107bhp four-cylinder diesel driving front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 106mph and 0-62mph in 14.3 seconds
- How green?: category-C (£120/year) and 147g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 50.4mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 60 litres/13.2 gallons
- Insurance group: 4E
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles.
- Website: www.peugeot.co.uk
- Rivals: Citroën Berlingo First and Multispace or Xsara Picasso, Fiat Doblo, Ford C-Max, Kia Carens, Peugeot Partner Combi, Renault Kangoo and Scenic, Skoda Roomster, Vauxhall Meriva and VW Caddy Maxi Life.

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08(57) 911 (997) C2S Cpe **£62,995**
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07(57) 911 (997) C4S Cab **£76,995**
Meteor Grey/Black, 19" SportDesign wheels, Sport/exhst, S/chrono +, Spt/seats, Embossed headrests, Nav, Tel Module, BOSE, ParkAssist, 6,000 miles



07(07) 911 (997) Turbo Cpe **£87,990**
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08(08) 911 (997) Turbo Cpe **£97,995**
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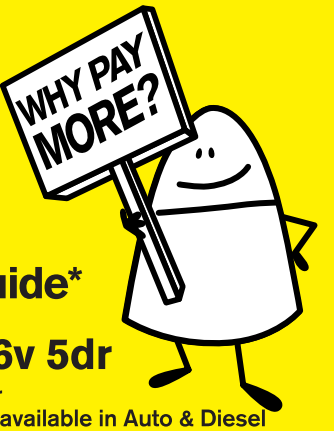
Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 31.0 (9.1) to 49.6 (5.7), extra urban from 46.3 (6.1) to 68.9 (4.1), combined from 39.8 (7.1) to 60.1 (4.7). CO2 emissions from 124g/km to 171g/km. . SX4 range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 28.8 (9.8) to 44.1 (6.4), extra urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 61.4 (4.6), combined from 37.1 (7.6) to 53.3 (5.3). CO2 emissions from 139g/km to 182g/km. . Grand Vitara range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 23.3 (12.1) to 31.7 (8.9), extra urban from 35.8 (7.9) to 44.1 (6.4), combined from 30.1 (9.4) to 38.7 (7.3). CO2 emissions from 190g/km to 228g/km.

†Finance subject to status (Over 18's only). A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request. All offers subject to availability while stocks last. Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. All offers correct at time of going to press. (*Labour only) 3 years or 60,000 mile warranty, whichever comes first. 3 years 24 hour Roadside Assistance.



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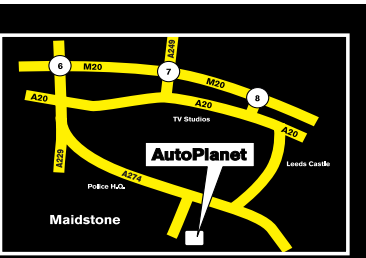
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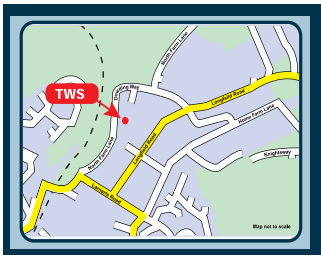
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Bike market takes a hit but is more robust than car sector

AFTER a stirring 22 per cent market hike in July, Britain's faltering economy caught up with the motorcycle market in August and inflicted a fourth monthly dip in sales so far this year

However, while August registrations were 12.3 per cent down on last year at 10,104 units, the bike market is still performing well in contrast to the car market, which slumped 19 per cent during the same month.

And so far this year, bike registrations are just half a per cent down on the same period in 2007, compared with a 3.8 per cent drop for car sales.

Motorcycle Industry Association spokesman Craig Carey-Clinch said: "The market is very volatile. The industry has seen strong months this year in February, April, June and July, but clearly, people are being very cautious about their spending – and the appalling weather in August and this year hasn't done us any favours.

"It could be that the new September registrations will provide a boost, but overall, a drop so far this year of less than one per cent is a very strong performance."

Scooters and mopeds are up by 3.6 per cent and 7.2 per cent so far in 2008, reflecting increasing interest in low cost commuter-type bikes and suggesting a robust market in years to come as these new or returning riders trade up.

Top sellers are the Yamaha YBR 125 and YZF R125 with Yamaha the best-selling brand, followed by Honda and Suzuki.

"We know that demand for bike tests is at an all-time high, and that dealers are reporting interest from new riders looking for lower cost transport," added Carey-Clinch.



Yamaha's add-ons are good news

YAMAHA has extended its tempting 'More to Play With' finance offer – three and-a-half years' interest-free credit – until December 1 and added more choice of machine.

The original line-up of YZF-R1/R6, FZ-Series (pictured), XJR1300, XVS1300A and XV1900 cruisers plus the street cool MT-03, has been joined by the WR250R and WR250X tourers, the FJR1300A and AS and the timeless TDM900 and TDM900ABS.

And deposits can be as low as £499 on the YZF-R1, YZF-R6 and FJR1300A/AS and £199 on all the others.



Suzuki GSX more agile than before

SUZUKI has unveiled an all-new GSX-R1000 K9 model (pictured) for the 2009 model year, alongside the new Gladius 650 and Intruder 1500 models.

Boasting an all-new compact engine, shorter wheelbase and new styling, the new GSX-R1000 raises the bar once more in the hotly-contested Supersport class.

Suzuki says the newcomer is more agile than ever, with superb rider feedback and response and reduced weight. It also features low-slung MotoGP inspired titanium exhausts, a lighter and sculptured fuel tank, on-board lap timer and revised Suzuki Drive Mode Selector controls.

The brand's all-new Gladius 650 shares the limelight; it is a naked middleweight model featuring Suzuki's legendary 650cc V-Twin and distinctive styling in a user-friendly package. With a fuel injected, twin plug head engine delivering enhanced performance, combined with great style and neutral lightweight handling, the Gladius is aimed at novice or experienced riders alike.

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CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTX 2.0, gk08orw, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £22995, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, S 1.2, gf57gxx, finished in sports blue with black interior, blue, 1000 miles, £6295, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 1.6, gj05cyh, finished in silver with interior, silver, 33000 miles, £5895, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 SE+ Hatchback 5Dr 995cc, 56/2006, a/con radio/cd player electric windows pas abs central locking, metallic blue, 14, 000 miles, £4995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX 1.6, gf56kcu, finished in blue with black cloth interior, blue, 3000 miles, £6995, Caffyns Chevrolet T Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, Le Auto, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, twin air bags, colour coded body, cd player, radio, air con, electric mirrors, electric front windows, black, 34000 miles, £1995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, power steering, traction control, cd player, radio, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, abs, twin air bags, blue, 9600 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

COPEN, Activetop 1.3, 08/2008, red leather interior pas remote central locking rear spoiler dual exhaust pipes a/con electric windows rear wind deflector front fog lights sports seats, grey metallic, delivery miles miles, £12845, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATERIA, 08/2008, alloy wheels twin exhaust tinted glass a/con remote c/locking electric windows fog lamps reverse park sensors & much more!!!, dark red mica, delivery miles miles, £11, 495, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.0 SE Hatchback 5d 998cc, 58/2008, abs pas remote c/locking radio/cd player electric windows a/con reverse parking sensors, bright red, delivery miles miles, £8495, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 1.5 SX Station Wagon 5Dr, 08/2008, 16'' alloy wheels heated/electricdoor mirrors radio/cd player a/con electirc windows front fog lights reverse parking sensor, remote c/locking pas abs, metallic blue, delivery miles miles, £14, 195, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FIAT

BRAVO 100 SX, 2001 "v", a medium sized car with a 1.6 engine. pas c/lock s/hist very reasonly priced. a 3 month warrenty is offerd on the screen price and we will take your old car in part exchange. a new mot test will be included. blue, 75, 000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74, 000 miles, £was £1195 now £695, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2.0 16v, 1995, red, 72451 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.2 Dynamic 8v, ex05mxc, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, twin air bags, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, blue, 28000 miles, £4990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, wr07tyc, blue, 5810 miles, £8495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4 Eleganza 5dr, wp05tkn, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, climate control, electric front windows, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, parking sensor, alloy wheels, met grey, 10439 miles, £4999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

MAREA, TD 100 SX Weekend, 1998, red, 106000 miles, £995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Jtd 110 ELX, eu02luh, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, parking sensor, power steering, abs, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, twin sunroofs, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, metallic red, 68000 miles, £3990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Jtd Van, ov04vkd, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, grey, 49000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SEDICI, 1.6 16v Eleganza, hy06xcn, 16in alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, centre rear seat belt, climate control, cloth interior, driver seat height adjustment, driver, passenger and side air bags, eight speakers, electric/heated door mirrors, electronic brake force distribution, front fog lights, front/rear electric windows, front/rear head restraints, heated rear screen, immobiliser, power-assisted steering, radio/cd, reach adjustable steering column/wheel, remote central door locking, roof rails, seats split rear, spacesaver spare wheel, steering wheel leather, two seats rear seat isofix anchorage point, beige metallic, 9930 miles, £7495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

SEICENTO, Sporting 3dr, 4023314, 14'' alloys, red, 26000 miles, £2495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

STILO, Dynamic 1.8 16v 5dr Man, cloth upholstery, air con, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, seat-back tables, parking sensor, power steering, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, side air bags, twin air bags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, electric mirrors, multi-disc cd player, radio cassette, silver metallic, 42000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

ULYSSE, Eleganza Jtd 16v, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, privacy glass, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, centre armrest, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, abs, multiple airbags, satellite navigation, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, cd, 15'' alloys, one retired bank manager from new exceptional condition. blue, 26000 miles, £7495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, I-VTEC SE Executive Auto, 6184079, rear headrests, full leather, remote central locking, alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric seats, cd, radio, air conditioning, climate control, twin air bags, cruise control, electric sunroof, colour satnav, alloy wheels, silver, 47400 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 I-Ctdi Type S 3dr, registered 2008 mileage 4100 miles, transmission manual body style hatchback, fuel type diesel exterior orange, number of doors 3 interior, previous owners 0 interior trim, drake and fletcher provide a variety of warranty options. our sales teams will be happy to explain the options to you. orange, £15988, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

CR-V, ES Auto, v557soe, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails, front fog lamps, full leather, height adjustable seat, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, electric sunroof, electric windows, electric mirrors, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, 4x4, gold, 59900 miles, £3495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FR-V, - 1.8 I-Vtec Ex 5dr, 1503649, honda fr-v 1.8 i-vtec ex 5dr £15, 989.00, registration gl57wej sale price £15, 989.00, registered 2007 mileage 200 miles, transmission manual body style estate, fuel type petrol exterior silver, number of doors 5 interior tan, previous owners 0 interior trim leather, drake and fletcher provide a variety of warranty options. our sales teams will be happy to explain the options to you. silver, £15989, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

HR-V, VTEC 3dr, ld51 ffw, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear spoiler, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, air conditioning, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, 4x4, green/blue, 44400 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 i-DSI SE 5dr, lb05kaa, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, silver pearl, 46221 miles, £6299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

STREAM, 2.0i SE Sport, gn02ovt, passenger airbag, alarm, rake/reach adjustable steering column/wheel, driver's seat height adjustment, six speakers, electric sunroof, seven seats seating capacity, driver airbag, front/rear head restraints, remote central door locking, centre rear seat belt, full size spare wheel, radio/cassette, front/rear electric windows, electric/heated mirrors external, front/rear armrest, eternal blue pearl, 66549 miles, £6495.0000, Barretts Honda, Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, Denver Max TD Pu 4x4 Dcb, ve56nkg, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, 16'' alloys, 4x4, maroon, 12110 miles, £12800, Van Zone Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446528 (TRADE)

TROOPER, CITATION 3.5 V6 LWB, 1999 (t), 99 (t) 4x4 izuzu trooper citation 3.5 v6 lwb auto, 5 door, stunning met green coachwork with contrasting velour trim, service history, new mot, full electric pack, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows 4, electric & folding mirrors, twin air bags, 2 & 4 wheel drive, alloy wheels, cd hi-fi, tow bar and twin electric pack, + much more, never taken off road, stunning condition. only £4995 now only £3995, metalic green, 93000 miles, £3995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI GS 5dr, gl07jwp, air-conditioning, abs + ebd, air, cd player. insurance group:10, red, 17900 miles, £10494, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CERATO, 1.6 Zapp 5dr, 1340649, kia cerato 1.6 zapp 5dr £5, 990.00, registration lc56dhv sale price £5, 990.00, registered 2006 mileage 10705 miles, transmission manual body style hatchback, fuel type petrol exterior blue, number of doors 5 interior, previous owners 1 interior trim, blue, £5990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MAGENTIS, Le 16v, eo54yon, anti-theft system, immobiliser, rear headrests, rear armrest, height adjustable seat, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, black, 25000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.1 3 5dr, immobiliser, alarm, central locking, power steering, air con, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, alloys, 150 miles, transmission manual body style hatchback, fuel type petrol exterior black, number of doors 5 interior, previous owners 1 interior trim, anti-lock brakes (abs), air conditioning, alarm, alloy wheels, cd, central locking, electric windows, engine immobiliser, power steering, warranty, front fog lamps, fog lamps, power steering, black, £7495, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

RIO, 1.4 2 5dr, 1380649, central locking, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, kia rio 1.4 2 5dr £7, 495.00, registration gl08mvh sale price £7, 495.00, registered 2008 mileage 150 miles, transmission manual body style hatchback, fuel type petrol exterior silver, number of doors 5 interior, previous owners 1 interior trim, air conditioning, alloy wheels, cd player, central locking, electric windows, silver, £7495, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, 2.0 Crdi Xs [138] 5dr, 1283649, kia sportage 2.0 crdi xs [138] 5dr £11, 995.00, registration j400soo sale price £11, 995.00, registered 2006 mileage 13100 miles, transmission manual body style estate, fuel type diesel exterior blue, number of doors 5 interior, previous owners 1 interior trim, blue, £11995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS300, GS 300 SE, 503461, remote alarm, central locking, full leather, electric seats, air bag, abs, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, climate control, electric windows, electric mirrors, 15'' alloys, blue, 130000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

IS, 200 SE Sat Nav 2.0 4dr Auto, remote central locking, alcantara leather, head restraints, power steering, immobiliser, abs, climate control, colour satnav, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, central locking, remote alarm, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, height adjustable seat, cruise control, traction control, trip computer, child locks, side air bags, twin air bags, auto lighting, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, air con, electric sunroof, radio cassette, 17'' alloys, strathcaron blue, 91000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2004, abs alarm body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser lumbar support pas passenger airbag rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment traction control, grey, 40414 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 2007, black, 8946 miles, £17995, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19'' turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, sports chrono pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports exhaust, vts tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, bose, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £65000, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

911 TURBO, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, 2.7 Man, x266bhr, remote central locking, alcantara leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, cd player, stereo, half leather, 17'' alloys, blue, 62000 miles, £9999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CAYENNE, S 5dr, gk53mge, remote central locking, full leather, head restraints, heated seats, power steering, abs, colour coded body, climate control, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, anti-theft system, central locking, locking wheel nuts, electric seats, centre armrest, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, stability control, adjustable steering column, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, xenon headlamps, powered folding mirrors, dual climate zones, 16'' alloys, 4x4, black, 68000 miles, £15990, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 3.4 S 2dr, 2006, 3.4 s 2dr coupe, dark blue, 26000 miles, £33995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

PROTON

PERSONA, 1.5 GLSi Saloon 4d 1468cc auto, s 1999, electric windows, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, sunroof, remote mirrors, radio cassette. green, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

PERSONA, Compact Lsi 3dr, 825461, cloth upholstery, air bag, air conditioning, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, stereo, cd player, 14'' alloys, silver metallic, 50857 miles, £1999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear TID 1.9, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels. silver metallic, 32, 000 miles, £9, 495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTABLE, 2000 (w), stunning diamond black coachwork with grey leather trim, full service history, electric pack, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin air bags, alloys, original hi-fi, stunning condition, true luxury at an affordable price. only £5495 diamond black, low milage miles, £ cheap at £5695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **53 & 54**.

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THIS WEEKS USED CARS PICK OF THE WEEK

AUTOMATICS

(04) Toyota Yaris Verso 1.3 T Spirit Auto, 5 Dr, Red, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, 1 Owner, 30800 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 5.....£6795

(04) Toyota Corolla 1.6 T2 Auto, 5 Dr, Red, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS,CD Player, Only 24550 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 5.....£5995

(03) Honda Civic Coupe 1.7 VTEC Auto, 3 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, PAS, C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, E/Mirrors, Sunroof, 2 Owners,21500 Miles, S/History, Ins.Gp 11.....£5495

OTHERS

(55) Nissan Micra 1.4, Sport +, 3 Dr, Techno Grey, Power Steering, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD Player, Alloys, 28900 Miles, S/History, Ins Group 4.....£5495

(54) Suzuki Wagon R+ 1.3 GL, 5 Dr, Met.Green, Air Con, Power Steering, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, Airbags, CD, 26000 Miles, S/History, Ins.Grp 3.....£4695

(02) Toyota Yaris 1.0 GLS ,3 Dr, Silver, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/F/Windows, ABS, 1 Owner, 58000 Miles, S/History, Ins.Grp 2, RFL £120 p.a.£3495

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SMEs count the cost

THREE in 10 owners of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the South East say costs of running their business are increasing at a much higher rate than usual, according to new research.

Bank of Scotland Business Banking found that with business conditions remaining difficult, the rising costs of running a small business are preying on the minds of more than three in five owners working hard to contain overheads.

There have been rapid increases in fuel and food prices, and one in five SME owners reckons profits have been badly affected by increases in fuel prices alone, with a half claiming just a slight drop in profits.

The leisure, tourism and hospitality sectors have suffered most with a third of owners claiming profits have been badly affected.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

Higher food prices have had a less severe impact, with a third of small-business owners noticing an impact on profits. Leisure is once again the worst hit, with three-quarters claiming rising food prices have hit profits.

Two-fifths of owners in this sector reported 'badly affected' profits.

Two-thirds of small-business owners have passed on some if not all of these rising costs to customers in order to remain profitable, although only one in 12 has hit customers with the full increase.

But in just over half the cases where costs have been passed to customers, businesses have seen demand fall. A quarter have actually lost customers while slightly more have retained their customers but noticed they are buying less.

Two-thirds of SMEs expect to increase prices for goods and services over the next year as a result of their own increased costs – in two-thirds of those cases above the official rate of inflation. A fifth of these rises will be more than 10 per cent.

Peter Wood, head of strategy and products at Bank of Scotland Business Banking, said: "Small business owners are acutely aware of the impact additional fixed costs can have on the bottom line, and the majority have seen many of these costs increase exponentially over the past few years.

"Against a background of difficult trading conditions, most have little option but to pass on these costs to customers.

"With price rises looking likely to continue, it is crucial that small-business owners turn to their accountants or bankers to seek advice about controlling operating costs in their efforts to remain profitable."

Grant aid for expanding firms

IF YOU are looking to expand or modernise your business or bring a new product to market, you may be able to take advantage of a grant available under the Government's Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) scheme, ***writes Richard Parsons.***

Under the scheme, businesses could be eligible for a grant up to 15 per cent of a project's capital expenditure.

Higher support levels might be available for small and medium-sized enterprises. The grants are available to businesses investing in or moving to Kent and Medway.

The scheme aims to support businesses through investment in capital equipment and premises, and new job creation.

In order to be eligible for a grant, businesses have to satisfy three criteria:

- You must be looking to set up, expand or modernise your business in Kent and Medway.
- Your client base must extend beyond Kent and Medway, serving regional, national or international markets.
- Your project must require a capital investment of £67,000 or more.

Since April, 2004, some 38 businesses in Kent and Medway have been awarded more than £7.7m in grants and 33 of those have benefited from advice from the South East Grant Advisory Service, which offers free advice and assistance to firms.

Thanet Press, a print company based in Margate, was awarded a grant in 2008 which will enable it to build a controlled environment to produce instruction leaflets for the pharmaceutical industry.

The firm's Ken Lindsay said: "Thanet Press can now realise its full potential. The interior renovation means staff will be able to work in an environment which meets the ISO regulations and allows us to expand into new markets."

Thanks to the grant, nine jobs will be created and 86 others safeguarded. It will also mean the company can refit the interior of its premises and buy a specialist machine to print and fold pharmacy leaflets in a controlled environment.

Grants are discretionary and assessed on an individual basis by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), in line with its regional economic strategy.

There is no automatic entitlement, but to enquire about the eligibility of your own project, a free advisory service is available through Locate in Kent, the investment promotion agency.

For further information, call 01732 520700 or visit the SFIE grants section at www.locateinkent.com/grants.

'Investment products are far too complicated'

INVESTMENT products have become too sophisticated and too clever.

That is according to Alan Stokes, head of investments at Lawrence House Fund Managers of Harbledown, near Canterbury.



WARNING: Alan Stokes

He said: "My concern is that too many advisors of limited investment experience have been continually seduced by new investment ideas and strategies without fully appreciating the potential consequences when things go wrong.

"And the basic principles of investing in real assets appear to have diminished."

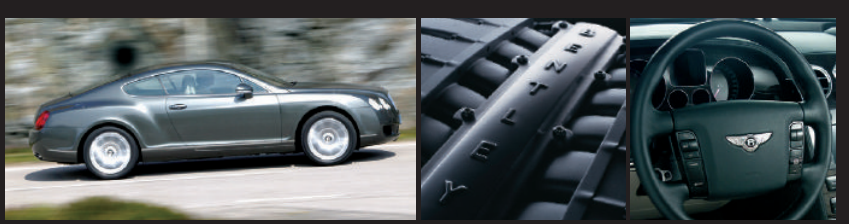
He said recent events highlighted concerns that advisors and investors failed to understand what they had been buying.

"Many of us have been managing multi-strategy portfolios for years, combining fixed income, equities, property and cash so the concept is not new.

"However, we always knew what we owned. Today, a number of investors with structured products or exchange traded funds have found to their cost that their investment has all but disappeared.

"We all have a responsibility to our clients and investors, and a major part of that is always understanding fully what we are buying."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based Speldhurst Sausages is celebrating after agreeing a deal with Asda which will see its sausages stocked in the supermarket's 12 stores throughout Kent including Ashford, Canterbury and Sittingbourne.

It started supplying to five Asda stores on a trial basis in February.

The sausages proved so popular that Speldhurst often outsold big national brands.

It uses Asda's local sourcing hub, Bank Farm, to distribute its sausages. It has been making the famous Speldhurst Sausage for 50 years.

AYLESHAM-based Marley Waterproofing has been recognised by its industry body, the Construction Products Association, for its innovative cold applied roofing system, LCMS20.

It will be featured in this year's edition of Construction Products Innovation and Achievement (CPIA), the annual publication from the association showcasing innovative products and processes across the industry. Marley Waterproofing employs more than 50 people.

Experts run eco-design seminars on the web

Pair of 'virtual sessions' will offer broad overview

SUSTAINABLE-business experts Envirowise will be running two 'webinars' – seminars on the web – to help product and packaging designers in the South East gain a deeper understanding of eco-design.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

Designers who register for the sessions – on Wednesday, and again on February 25, 2009 – can log on from their desks to attend virtual seminars covering product and packaging eco-design, legislation and live product and packaging disassembly exercises.

The webinars will culminate in a round-table discussion where attendees will be given the opportunity to ask their own eco-design questions to a panel of experts from organisations including Envirowise and British Standards.

Wednesday's webinar gives an overview of eco-design, including case studies of companies who have gone through a product disassembly exercise to improve resource efficiency and cut costs.

The follow-up in February takes a more in-depth look at the design process and offers practical advice on how eco-design methodologies can be applied in the design process.

Katie Plummer, South East regional manager said: "The feedback we had from our 2007 webinar was extremely positive, with nine out of 10 of those who participated saying they would sign up for another one.

"Since 2007, we have developed the content to give a much broader picture of the eco-design process and include far more practical elements which we think will be of use and interest to anyone involved in the design process."

Envirowise is a Government-funded programme, and since 1994 has helped UK businesses save more than £1 billion by enabling them to cut their environmental footprints. To book, visit www.envirowise.gov.uk/webinar.



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DAVID ARMSTRONG: Take insurance seriously

It's not worth taking risks with cutbacks

BUSINESSES can't afford to make cutbacks when renewing their insurance – they could leave themselves wide open if they haven't got the right cover.

One of Kent's leading independent insurance brokers, Belmont International, said cover before cost or cost before cover is the annual headache facing companies.

In uncertain economic times it is inevitable companies will seek savings on insurance using internet or off-the-shelf products, which can provide quick, convenient and often seemingly competitively priced policies.

But adopting a one-size-fits-all policy can be short-sighted and leave a business exposed, should the worst happen. David Armstrong, associate director Belmont International, based at Otford, near Sevenoaks, said: "Firms need to take insurance as seriously as any part of their business.

"For example, business interruption – loss of profit or revenue – insurance as a result of a major disaster, if not properly arranged, can seriously jeopardise the long-term survival of a business.

"Due consideration needs to be given to suppliers, the effect on customers, availability of specialist equipment, local authority planning and building delays, to name but a few key issues.

"Every company has a variety of risks that differ from business to business. Buying a standard policy may cover some eventualities but not all and being exposed can mean the end for a firm."

Formed in 1988, Belmont has become one of the leading insurance brokers and independent financial advisors in the UK and employs more than 100 staff.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Brewery boss will judge IoD awards

A YEAR on from winning one of the first Institute of Directors' South East Director of the Year awards, Jonathan Neame (pictured below), chief executive of Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame, has been chosen as a judge for this year's awards.



Alistair Rose, regional chairman of the main sponsor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, said: "Last year's finalists were true examples of the talent in this region, demonstrating best-in-class performance and making a real difference."

Mr Neame impressed last year's judges with the way he has taken Britain's oldest brewery forward, developing it in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

He said: "Competing for awards is motivational for any team and winning them lifts everyone's spirits."

The 2008 finalists will be named in a few weeks' time. They will be chosen from over 260 nominations and then take part in an Oscars-style gala dinner in London on November 27. Full details are on www.iod.com/south/awards.

Having their cake

MAIDSTONE-based Brachers Solicitors has re-branded as Brachers Law.

To mark the event a huge cake featuring the firm's new logo was cut by managing director John Sheath.

It has also taken on new solicitors to strengthen its key commercial teams.

Amber Gilbert, previously with Vertex, and newly qualified Amy Husk, who trained at Girlings, have joined the property team.

Sean Gorman has returned from the City to join the corporate team. Also joining the team is Julie Alchin.

The corporate team has retained Matthew Simmonds and Neil McCarroll, who trained with the firm and have just qualified, while two other newly-qualified solicitors have also joined the firm, Eleanora Bryant, and Ellie Brown.



ON CALL: Entrepreneur Carsten Brinkschulte

Timely affirmation of vision for Synchronica

HIGH-flying Tunbridge Wells firm Synchronica, the mobile email and synchronisation developer, is making headlines again.

Chief executive officer Carsten Brinkschulte has been selected as a finalist for the Institute of Directors' South East Young Director of the Year award.

Mr Brinkschulte is a serial entrepreneur with vast experience in the mobile sector.

He founded and operated a number of companies before setting his sights on the gains of an industry-standard approach to mobile email, by starting up Synchronica.

Under his leadership, the firm has developed multi-award winning products that are now used by mobile network operators across the world.

Spotlighting emerging markets where billions of mobile phone consumers lack basic access to email connectivity, he is focusing on opportunities in developing nations.

In a string of high-profile deals, he has successfully completed two acquisitions which really stand out. In November, 2007, the firm took over the assets of US-based email specialist GoodServer, whose technology was already a key part of Synchronica's flagship Mobile Gateway product.

But the biggie was AxisMobile. In August, with the raising of £5.1 million from the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in London, Synchronica acquired AxisMobile's complimentary technology, further expanding the addressable market into the low-end consumer sector.

Mr Brinkschulte said: "I was flattered to have been nominated for the region's Young Director of the Year, but now I am honoured to be selected as a finalist and view this as an affirmation of Synchronica's vision to bring push email and synchronisation services to every phone on the planet."

Average Joe just two months from penury

IF THE average person in the South East was unable to work, his or her savings would last less than two months – just 52 days – says a closely researched survey.

That's the same for the average person around the country – but a worrying one in three people say their savings would last only 11 days.

The survey, carried out for Yorkshire Building Society, which has branches in Chatham, Canterbury and Bexleyheath, found that nationally a surprising nine out of 10 people have no income protection – while in the South East the figure is nearly a half.

The society says the majority of people are living on a financial tightrope, with the average person having outgoings of £1,445 while the average accessible savings are £2,474.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

The third of people who say they would financially only be able to last 11 days have less than £500 in accessible savings.

The society says the worst affected groups are women, 46 days; and divorcees, 35 days; and those aged 35-44, 39 days.

These figures paint an alarming picture as 17 per cent of people think they or their partner may be unable to work for up to six months in future due to illness.

Two out of every three people either do not know how they would survive or have unrealistic expectations of how they would continue to meet their daily expenditure.

One in 20 think they would consider selling their home if they needed to access money quickly. However, in a stagnant housing market with some consumers already contending with negative equity, people cannot rely on being able to sell or rent their home in order to release equity.

Tanya Jackson, Yorkshire's corporate affairs manager, said: "This research paints an extremely alarming picture for those without protection products in place.

"Finances for many are already finely balanced due to the rising cost of living. The research reveals that both state benefits and savings are not viable options for the majority to rely upon for an adequate length of time.

"It is extremely worrying to see that many are 'living on the edge' and we urge consumers to take a look at their protection needs in order to assess how they would cope financially if they were taken ill and whether they would benefit from the security that a protection scheme provides."



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From Cloughie to Clarkson

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Maidstone-based PFPR Communications is a rising business star, becoming firmly established as a leading UK automotive press relations consultancy.

Founded in 2001 by **Peter Frater** (pictured) and Peter Rawlinson, its clients include a wide range of blue chip firms in the UK, Europe, Asia and US. Clients during the last five years included Aston Martin, Cadillac, Chrysler, Corvette, Dodge, Ferrari, Kia, Maserati and Mazda.

Mr Frater previously managed in-house UK PR work for Alfa Romeo, Chrysler Jeep, Ferrari, Mazda, Kia and Daihatsu, while Mr Rawlinson previously worked for Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Fiat, Daihatsu and Chrysler Jeep in the UK before moving to Brussels as head of Chrysler's European PR operations.

Recently, PFPR was specialist automotive agency for the British International Motor Show, and Mr Frater was interviewed by headlineauto, the online 'filing cabinet' for motoring journalists. We reprint an edited version here, with full permission and acknowledgement.

Q What was your first job?

A Trainee journalist on East Kent Mercury – but it nearly didn't happen. The editor died two hours before my interview, so when I turned up I was told my interview was obviously cancelled. I reminded the deputy editor I was going to be interviewed because there was a vacancy in their editorial team of five, but they now appeared to be two short.

He saw my point, so took me on for a trial without an interview and I stayed for three happy years.

Q How has your career progressed?

A A move to the Nottingham Evening Post gave me five fantastic years as a sports writer – including some interesting verbal tussles with Cloughie.

Then, when the motoring correspondent died – spot a trend here? – I was asked to take over. I had no interest in cars and knew nothing about them, so spent the first day trying to identify a Cortina from a Cavalier – then wondered what on earth my first test car was when a Panther Kallista was delivered. That was 1978 and this unexpected and unlikely change of direction turned out to be the single most important day in my career.

Five years later, Howard Walker invited me to join the best magazine team in the business at Motor. After three years I crossed the fence and PR roles followed with Daihatsu, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Chrysler Jeep, Mazda, Kia and Inchcape. Then I went solo, trading as Peter Frater Public Relations.

Q What does your job involve now?

A Leading a fantastic team and developing the business. We recently launched a new division, PFPR Events, to complement our core PR operations for a range of clients.

While much of my time is taken up with running the business, I'm still very hands-on and love getting directly involved.

Q What has been your greatest achievement?

A Taking PFPR from being just me in a back bedroom in 1998 to a talented team of 22.

Q What is your biggest regret?

A Not playing cricket until reaching the age of 50 and then discovering that I absolutely love wicketkeeping and am even reasonably competent. But I'm not sure how long my 56-year-old knees will be able to take the strain. If only I'd started as a teenager…

Q What is the major issue facing motor industry PRs today?

A Embracing new demands and challenges as the role becomes much more complex after years of largely being event-led. With new communication channels, there's an ever-growing demand for instant information, images and news. Press launches are now just one small part of the job – it's not long since they dominated the role.

Q What is the major issue facing the car industry today?

A For some, simply survival. For others, taking the really tough decisions to cope with over-capacity and shrinking demand in a tough economic climate. But for all, the priority has to be the race to develop new economical and environmentally-acceptable propulsion methods. And then there's the growing threat from China.

Q What really annoys you?

A Don't get me started. Eastern European truckers who cause accidents on the M20 during their first hour on British roads after crossing the Channel. Then there's the ludicrous Operation Stack.

Q What has been the most fun thing you have done in the job?

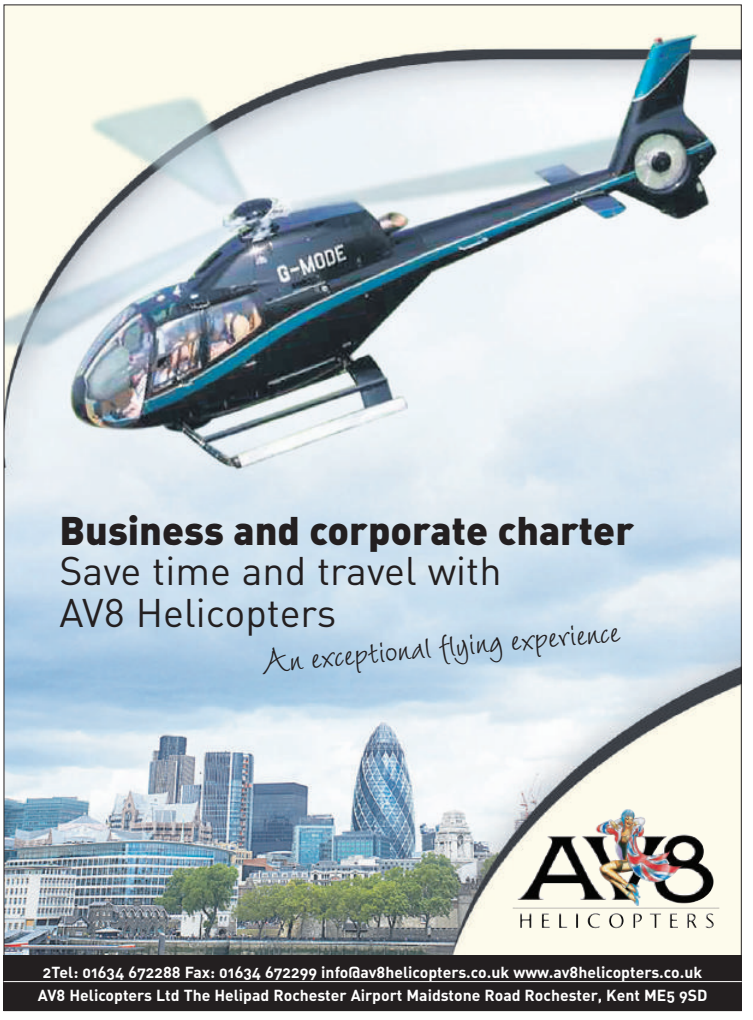
A Driving a Jeep across the Rubicon Trail was amazing. However, the best was 20 years ago, taking six journalists on a ridiculous 11-day round-the-world trip – which became known as Megablag – for just one-and-a-half days at the Daihatsu HQ in Japan (remember crashing that Charade at the test track, Mr Clarkson?), with the rest of the time taking in Hong Kong, Maui and San Francisco.

Q If you weren't doing your job, what would you most want to do?

A Apply for it.

Q What do you do to relax?

A Play cricket for the village team and try to learn golf.





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Biofuels must not add to the problem

PREOCCUPATION with an urgent need to find ways of cutting down on the carbon emissions associated with fossil fuels has removed focus from the bigger picture.

By PAT CRAWFORD
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

So we often overlook the fact that reserves of oil and natural gas are diminishing at an alarming rate while demands from developing countries are escalating. A double whammy.

Up to only a few weeks ago, biofuels were being perceived as the answer to both these problems.

In 2003 the EU put into place legislation requiring member states to aim for 5.75 per cent of all transport fossil fuels to be replaced by bio-fuels by the end of 2010, and 10 per cent by 2020.

Now this policy is being re-examined in light of fears that the negative aspects could outweigh the benefits. Concerns centre on the fact that vast tracts of forest in Brazil and other countries are being cleared in order to provide more land for energy crops.

Such deforestation results in the release of carbon dioxide sequestrated by the trees – and some estimates indicate that it would be necessary to grow fuel crops for between 50 and 100 years merely to offset the emissions created. At the same time the price of food, for both humans and animals, has risen and some analysts predict it will go on doing so.

Some increases relate directly to oil prices, but far from all. In some parts of the world land that was previously used in the production of food crops has been given over to bio-fuel crops.

As a result, demand for commodities such as rice and wheat is outstripping supply and this is having a huge influence on prices in the world market.

This affects everyone, but especially those in developing countries whose earnings were at subsistence level before prices began to spiral.

In a sense the UK, even allowing for the rate of inflation being way above the Government's target figure and predictions that we are galloping into a recession, is immune to major disasters.

Yes, in light of price rises we are sometimes forced to cut down on the quantities and variety of what goes into our shopping baskets, but food remains plentiful and no-one is starving.

The majority of our agricultural and horticultural sectors continue to put emphasis on growing food and few have been persuaded to jump wholeheartedly onto the biofuels bandwagon. Consumers continue to demand 'regional' and 'local' and the balance of demand and supply, at least during the summer and early autumn months, is generally a reasonable one. But this inevitably begs the question: when winter arrives and with it a reduction in the choice of produce grown in this country, what will shoppers do then?

Several of the most popular celebrity chefs are busy promoting 'seasonality' and they are coming up with recipes for delicious sounding meals to emphasise the point. Will this catch on sufficiently?

In the meantime, our farmers and growers continue to extend their ranges and cropping periods.

In any event, it is to be hoped that shoppers will continue to back our farmers and reward them for their efforts by accepting the limitations of 'seasonality'.

The rural sector will obviously benefit from such loyalty and battening down the hatches and giving support to British growers will hopefully produce beneficial effects for the economy as a whole.

Maybe we need to develop a new slogan: 'Seasonality makes sense'.



BURNING UP: But biofuels are not a panacea for the world's energy crisis and have led to food shortages



A million reasons for this monkey business

GO APE at Bedgebury Forest hosted a special event as business brains took to the trees.

The aim was to tighten their teamwork skills and sharpen their senses for a national fundraising challenge to raise £1 million to change young lives with the Prince's Trust charity.

Staff from Oxford's Morgan Cole solicitors will battle it out with nearly 50 companies nationwide to raise the most money towards supporting young entrepreneurs on the trust's business programme by coming up with the most lucrative business idea and running their own mini enterprises.

Backed by the original winner of The Apprentice, Tim Campbell, Million Makers marks the 25th anniversary of the business programme and is the largest employee fundraising initiative in the trust's history.

The programme has helped more than 1,200 young people into business in the region in the last five years and needs £1m every month to continue its work.



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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.54% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/12/2010
OD: £1,759

BRISTOL & WEST
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.69% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/10/2011
OD: £1,514

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.74% **L:** 75% **U:** 02/12/2010
OD: £1,515

BM SOLUTIONS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.84% **L:** 75% **U:** 1/12/2010
OD: £900

OTHER

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/10/2010
OD: £2,634

HALIFAX
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/12/2010
OD: £2,274

BM SOLUTIONS
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,400

NATIONWIDE
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.63% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,019

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

A Paragon of virtue

LISTED buildings can bring problems – but Kent-based chartered surveyor, Caxtons, has learned a thing or two about the management of them in the 238 years since the company was founded.

Among its portfolio is Paragon Crescent (pictured) on Blackheath Common, started in 1794 and the masterpiece of Regency architect Michael Searles; and Roan Courtyard in Devonshire Road, Greenwich, formerly Roan School for Girls.



The Paragon is among a tiny two per cent of Grade-I listed buildings in the country, and Roan Courtyard is Grade-II listed. Both have been divided into apartments and are now managed on a communal basis. Tony Martin, a Caxtons property manager, recently experienced a problem at the Paragon that demonstrates what can go wrong when owners don't fully understand the restrictions when making changes to a listed building.

While improving his central heating, an owner had an external flue installed. "He had not sought permission," said Mr Martin. "He reasoned that as it was an internal matter, no permission was necessary.

"However, the flue changed the external appearance of the building, which was in breach of restrictions."

The council became involved and the owner is in the process of obtaining retrospective consent. The flue has now been placed in a less prominent position. Mr Martin said: "At the Paragon owners must not even change the style of the skirting boards because these have been restored in the style of the original building."

Caxtons' property manager with responsibility for Roan Courtyard, Emma Catterall, recently had a similar problem, with an external fire escape. "It would be much simpler and cheaper to remove the old fire escape and replace it with a new one, but you can't necessarily do that in a listed building," she said.

"I have been working with its management committee and we are looking at an acceptable plan on how to repair the fire escape and make it safe, without breaching regulations."

How to reduce your exposure

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

THE credit crunch has bitten hard recently and we have seen some big names get into trouble in the banking world.

Cashflow can make or break a business and the lack of liquidity in the system is unprecedented in current times – and not contained to any one country.

Many people with money in bank accounts have been worried about their deposits. Despite the well-publicised bail-outs, many are nervous about leaving their money with one bank.

In recent years many have amalgamated their savings into one account for the sake of simplicity and to achieve a better rate with a larger balance.

One way investors can mitigate credit risk, but maintain savings in one place and still achieve a decent return, is to use a cash unit trust.

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LEGAL & GENERAL	£16.65	BUPA	£18.72	BRIGHT GREY	£13.51	LEGAL & GENERAL	£15.00
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£16.77	LV=	£18.82	LEGAL & GENERAL	£13.65	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£15.16
BRIGHT GREY	£18.19	LEGAL & GENERAL	£19.65	BUPA	£14.02	LV=	£16.44
BUPA	£18.39	BRIGHT GREY	£21.56	LV=	£14.14	BRIGHT GREY	£17.28

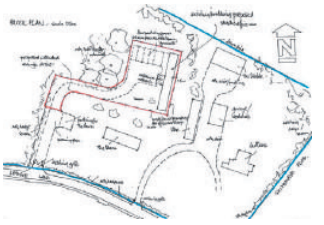
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That's for dad

Hero Shane dedicates title win to late father

By TOM HOWARD

NEWLY crowned British Superbike Champion Shane Byrne has signed for Sterilgarda Ducati to compete in the 2009 World Superbike Championship.

The Sheppey rider announced the deal with the Italian-based team after picking up his second British Superbike title at Silverstone last weekend.

A delighted Byrne told Kent on Sunday: "It all came about from a trip to the World Superbike round at Vallelunga [last month].

"I am glad to be still riding a Ducati, as it is very similar to the one I have been riding this season. It is still going to be very tough with the other top riders in this series."

Clinching his second British Superbike Championship and announcing a move to World Superbikes next season indicates the rejuvenation of Byrne's career. After winning his first British title in 2003, Byrne spent two disappointing years in Moto GP.

Despite a difficult start to the year with the death of his father, Byrne feels his latest title success is his most important to date.

Byrne explains: "My first title in 2003 was all about winning to help my career. This time I just wanted to win.

"Before the start of the season my dad passed away, which was difficult to deal with as he used to come along to all of my races. I would like to dedicate this title to my dad. I hope he is smiling down on me."

The 32-year-old made a rapid start to the season, picking up six wins out of eight races, but his championship credentials were thrown into doubt at round four at Donington Park in May.

Series organiser MotorsportVision Racing issued Byrne's Airwaves Ducati team and all four-cylinder Ducatis, a 10 kilogram weight penalty – much to the disgust of Byrne.

He said: "I was extremely frustrated when it happened. I still do not think it was fair. Last weekend at Silverstone the organisers took three kilograms off which only shows doubt in their original decision. I feel I was punished for doing my job well."

At times fans were left astonished by Byrne's will to win this season, but his comeback from 13th to win at a rainy Snetterton in June, is the one race that sticks in his mind.

As for next season, Byrne is under no illusions of the task that lies ahead of him for the 2009 World Superbike Championship.

However, the new British champion can take heart from his two victories in the series as a wild card rider in the World Championship at Brands Hatch in 2003.

Byrne added: "There are some real top guys in this championship and it is becoming bigger and bigger. I will give it my all but I am not going to say I am going to win anything yet. I will have to see how it all goes."

Byrne will be in action in the final round of the championship at Brands Hatch next weekend.



Picture: AIRWAVES DUCATI

I'M NUMBER ONE: New British Superbikes champion Shane Byrne celebrates victory

SHAKEY'S 2008 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING SEASON

ROUND 1:	Thruxton: 1st, 2nd
ROUND 2:	Oulton Park: 1st, 1st
ROUND 3:	Brands Hatch: 1st, 2nd
ROUND 4:	Donington Park: 1st, 1st
ROUND 5:	Snetterton: 2nd 1st
ROUND 6:	Mallory Park: 1st 2nd
ROUND 7:	Oulton Park: 3rd, 3rd
ROUND 8:	Knockhill: 2nd, dnf
ROUND 9:	Cadwell Park: 3rd, 3rd
ROUND 10:	Croft: 5th, 4th
ROUND 11:	Silverstone: 2nd, 3rd
ROUND 12:	Brands Hatch (next weekend)



Former Fleet ace on target for new club

FOOTBALL: Former Ebbsfleet United striker John Akinde scored on his debut for Bristol City on Tuesday night, a month after joining the Championship side.

Akinde, who was sold in the first football transfer to be decided by more than 28,000 MyFC members, came off the bench to score Bristol's first goal in a 2-2 draw with Plymouth Argyle.

It is believed Ebbsfleet will receive more money from Bristol City if Akinde plays nine more games for the Championship side.

Whites' FA Cup goal

FOOTBALL: Dover Athletic host AFC Wimbledon in what is likely to be a tantalising FA Cup tie next weekend.

A large crowd will be expected at Crabble as the Dons are likely to take more than 1,000 fans with them for the trip to Dover.

Andy Hessenthaler's side booked their place in the third qualifying round after a 3-1 win against Needham Market.

After knocking Blue Square South strugglers Fisher Athletic out of the cup in the last round, Maidstone United face a trip to the Midlands to take on Halesowen Town in the third qualifying round.

The side from Dudley play their football in the British Gas Premier Division and are fifth in the league.

Welling United were dumped out of the competition in midweek after they lost 2-0 at Ryman South side Whyteleafe. Ties to be played on Saturday, October 11.

Mos off to a flyer

ICE HOCKEY: Invicta Dynamos look to continue their good start to the English National Ice Hockey League (ENIHL) Cup when they visit Milton Keynes Thunder today.

Kevin Parrish's side began their group phase campaign with a narrow 5-4 win at Peterborough Islanders last weekend.

They have a good chance of maintaining their 100 per cent record against a Milton Keynes side which have lost all four of their matches this season.

The Mos reached the ENIHL Cup semi-finals last season, narrowly losing to Sheffield Scimitars.

Derek keeping tradition

FORMER Kent and England legend Derek Underwood has promised to protect the traditions of the game from the Twenty20 revolution, as he begins his year as president of the MCC.

The 63-year-old took 297 wickets in 86 Tests for England with his left-arm spinners – a dying art he admits, but one he is keen to promote among youth players.

Underwood takes over the reigns from Mike Brearley for what is set to be the busiest year in the club's 221-year history.

This will include the hosting of an Ashes Test match, two One-Day Internationals and much of the ICC World Twenty20 tournament.

The new president blames counties' focus on keeping run rates down for the lack of spinners in the domestic game. He also hopes that Twenty20 will encourage youngsters into the game and from there, they will develop an interest for four-day and Test cricket.



VOW: Derek Underwood

He said: "It is an exciting era for the sport, with Twenty20 cricket opening up so many possibilities for the game worldwide. It is important for all those who work in cricket to embrace that change whilst protecting the game's rich heritage.

"MCC is ideally placed to be at the heart of much of this change. With its development of the Masterplan project at Lord's, its independent voice of the MCC World Cricket committee and its playing remit to develop the game worldwide, the club has the passion, stature and desire to ensure the best for our wonderful game in the years ahead."

Underwood will also preside over the new rule that came into effect this week, which aims to ensure bats are made in the traditional manner.

Harland future doubt

GEORGINA Harland is making good progress in her battle to recover from a serious injury, but the modern pentathlete admits she has no idea whether she will ever compete again.

The 30-year-old ruptured a calf muscle in the World Championships in May, finally ending her bid to qualify for the Beijing Olympics.

Four months on, Harland, who grew up in Canterbury, has only just started jogging again after extensive rehabilitation and is uncertain what the future holds.

She told Kent on Sunday: "I will never have a normal calf again but it's hopefully going to get to the point where I'm not walking around with a limp. It's literally step by step and if I can carry on, the option's there. I don't know at the moment if the injury will stand up to competing."



RECOVERING: But Georgina Harland may not compete again

In addition to the recovery, Harland has used the time to explore potential career paths once she retires.

Sports psychology is an attractive prospect and she has spent time doing some mentoring work with young athletes, which has helped make the prospect of ending her career less frightening.

She said: "For an athlete the idea of retiring is daunting. The easy option for me is to carry on because that's what I know. The hard thing is to say 'this is not going to happen' and look for something else.

"I have learnt over the last few months that I have more experience than I thought I had. I've realised I can do something useful after I retire."

Clubs give backing for new laws

DESPITE being faced with the most comprehensive set of rule changes since rugby became professional, Kent's sides have broadly welcomed the move.

This season sees a trial of 13 Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) at all levels, which are aimed at making the game more fluent and exciting to watch.

Steve Reynolds, director of first XV rugby at Westcombe Park in National League 2, believes they have had a positive impact already.

He said: "They have speeded the game up and I think it's more entertaining. It's changed the style and the pace of the game. There has been less kicking out of hand for territory and a lot more running the ball from the middle part of the pitch."

Tim McBennett coaches both London 2 South side Maidstone and England under-18s. Whilst he admits it will take some time for teams to fully adapt to the new rules, he thinks they have been a change for the better.

He said: "Some people have said teams will be scared to attack but I think it allows more attacking. Once teams get used to them I don't think it will be a problem."

However, they have not been universally welcomed. Darryl Vas, new head coach at Thanet Wanderers, is generally in favour of the ELVs, but does have a criticism.

He said: "Not being able to kick from your own 22 means you have to run from further out which we have found difficult. We often look to score after three or four phases, but now we are finding it more like five and six phases, which means you end up losing the ball."

While the new rules are working well higher up the divisions, the experience of Kent League sides have exposed a flaw. One of the ELVs has increased the power of assistant referees, formerly touch judges, but at a lower level there are only enough officials to provide a referee at games. The lack of neutrality in assistants means referees often ignore some of the new rules.

One unresolved issue is what happens once the year-long trial ends.

Key ELVs

- Players able to defend a maul by pulling it down
- If a team puts the ball back into its own 22 and the ball is then kicked straight into touch they do not gain territory
- A quick throw can be thrown in straight or towards their team's goal line
- No restriction to the number of players from either team who can participate in a line-out
- The lifting of players at a line-out is permitted
- Players not involved in a scrum must stay at least five metres behind it

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'We want to talk'

But TV companies won't let us, says top ref

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

PREMIERSHIP referee Steve Bennett says match officials are prepared to explain their decisions after games, but TV companies refrain from asking them.

Bennett, from Orpington, was at the centre of controversy last weekend when he awarded a penalty to Wigan after Wilson Palacios went down in the box.

Latics striker Amr Zaki dispatched the resulting spot-kick to secure a 2-1 win against Manchester City.

Blues manager Mark Hughes was furious with the decision – and another to deny City a penalty when Richard Dunne was felled in the box – claiming Bennett cost his side a point.

He said after the game: "We're disappointed because the referee played a part in the outcome of the game. We feel he got a lot of key decisions wrong.

"Referees are going to have days when they don't perform well, we understand that, but all we ask is that they get the key decisions right.



"They had a big impact on the result."

The penalty was not the only contentious decision of the weekend as referee Rob Styles issued an apology to Bolton Wanderers after he awarded a penalty to Manchester United which helped them on their way to a 2-0 win.

TV pundits and broadcasters such as ex-players Mark Lawrenson and Ian Wright, have again been calling for referees to explain their decisions.

However, in an interview with Kent on Sunday, 47-year-old Bennett said referees are in fact available to discuss decisions – if they deem them relevant.

He said: "All referees have had media training but a lot of the time the broadcasting crews do not want to have our comments.

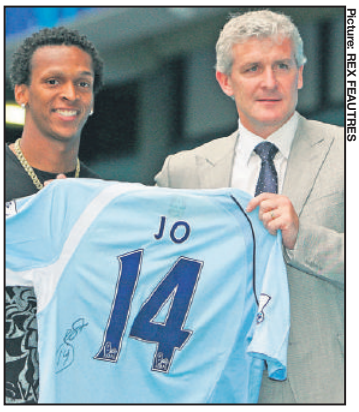
"There are also occasions after games where referees feel they do not have to justify their decisions.

"What has happened this year as I understand it, is that two ex-referees of high standing are making comments on our behalf.

"Dermot Gallagher is working with Sky while Paul Durkin is on the BBC. When there is a question to be raised, they are on hand to make people aware – they are often our communication link."

Kent's top referee admits issues often arise as a result of law changes in the game which are not necessarily communicated as well as they should.

"The laws change and get amended so interpretations are sometimes different," he said. "They are not always put across in the correct manner and that has to be addressed."



Picture: REX FEATURES

ANGRY: Man City boss Mark Hughes, pictured with new signing Jo, was furious with Steve Bennett's decision not to award a penalty against Wigan last week

Robbo's long coach journey



NATURAL PROGESSION: Mark Robson started coaching while he was still playing

AS MANAGERIAL apprenticeships go, the two decades Mark Robson took to become a first-team coach must be some kind of record, ***writes David Pritchard.***

Top players such as Roy Keane, Gareth Southgate and Paul Ince are increasingly able to walk straight into high-profile jobs almost as soon as they hang up their playing boots. But Robson, who joined Gillingham this summer after nine years behind the scenes at Charlton Athletic, has taken an altogether different path.

The cultured midfielder, whose career took in Tottenham, West Ham and Charlton, began coaching the team his younger brother Glenn played for while still in his teens.

Progression

"I had just signed for Tottenham and went down to give them a hand at a one-off training session. I really enjoyed it and went back the following week and never stopped really," he said.

"When I was at Spurs, West Ham and Charlton, I did work in their schools of excellence so I always had my eye in on the coaching side. It was a natural progression for me. I knew from the age of about 24 that once I finished playing I wanted to coach and manage, that was my goal.

"Some players finish playing when they are 35 and then coach kids for three or four years, but I started when I was 18 so I have a vast experience of coaching. There's a lot of satisfaction in watching players develop, it's a real buzz."

After retiring in 1998, he joined Charlton's academy and eventually worked his way up to become Alan Pardew's first team coach. He also took every coaching course available and has a UEFA Pro Licence, which qualifies him to take charge in the Premier League.

Despite a prominent role at the Championship club, Robson's ultimate goal of managing a side remained unfulfilled, prompting him to move on this summer. With no managerial vacancies available at the time, he accepted a job offer from Gills boss Mark Stimson to become his first team coach.

The pair went to the same school in east London and played alongside each other in several youth teams, so Robson had no hesitation about joining.

He said: "It suits both Mark and myself, I'm enjoying it and if something comes up that would be worth my while going then I would obviously seriously consider it, but I've got to be honest, I'm really enjoying it."

In the last fortnight he has been linked with the vacant Colchester United job, a proposition Robson admits would interest him. His non-contract deal with Gills would allow him to leave immediately if an offer came in.

Despite still waiting for a managerial post after 20 years of coaching, he insists he does not resent the Premier League stars given plum jobs despite lacking experience.

"I don't have a problem with it but I think everyone knows if you are a big name you have a better chance of getting a job than somebody like me," he said. "What you can do is earn yourself a decent reputation as a coach and that's something I hope I've done."

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‘There’s no consolation after a season like that’

Kent all-rounder reflects on county’s missed opportunities



IT HAS been a very tough season for me, and yet nothing could be tougher than sitting in the Kent dressing room last Saturday afternoon, knowing we had been relegated to Division Two of the championship.

We had begun the day still with five second innings wickets to fall but realising that defeat against Durham would consign us to the drop and also confirm them as county champions. But it is not until the match has actually finished, and everything is set in stone, that you feel the deepest emotions.

I think it was our defeat against Lancashire at Liverpool the previous week which really cost us, and also affected our performance in our final fixture. That was a game we should have won, and if we had we would have been challenging for a top three position in the Durham game – that’s how closely-fought the championship was this season.

But that is no consolation now, and it was extremely disappointing that we could not get enough points both up at Liverpool and against Durham at Canterbury to keep our Division One status that we have worked so hard to maintain in recent summers.

People will point to our batting performances throughout the season, with justification because we did not get the first innings totals that we should have got with, on paper, such a strong and lengthy batting line-up. Our total of batting bonus points was very low, and that cost us more than anything in the final shake-up.

What is especially disappointing, though, when you sit back and look at the final table, is that we have gone down with four victories to our name while both the two teams immediately above us have won just two matches in the championship all season. I suppose it just underlines the importance of gathering bonus points, and people will have views about that I’m sure.

It is difficult to see it at the moment – because it will take all of us a long time to get over the massive disappointments of the summer – but we have played a lot of very good cricket as a team in 2008 and there are a lot of positives for us to take forward as a group.


DISAPPOINTMENTS: James Tredwell says Kent’s results belied some of the good cricket they played

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

At the start of any season it would be a confident team indeed who believed they could contest every single competition right to the wire. We have been in both high-profile cup finals, the Friends Provident Trophy and the Twenty20 Cup, and we were in contention for promotion in the NatWest Pro 40 and for the County Championship itself right up to the last round of matches.

But, as at Canterbury last Saturday, we have been forced to listen to our opponents celebrating winning silverware in every competition. We have had to watch people lifting trophies in front of us, and that hurts even more.

Getting over the line, and winning those trophies ourselves, has been the biggest problem and biggest disappointment this year – which is especially tough to take given our success in the Twenty20 Cup in 2007. Perhaps, as a team, that is something we urgently need to address before we assemble again next March and April.

As a team, what we have said already is that we must all go away as individuals and take a long look at our own games and work out what we need to do to improve our cricket. We need to come back stronger than before, and in my own case that is exactly what I intend to do.

I have prided myself, throughout my career so far, in being able to learn from my experiences and thus improve my all-round game and raise the standards of my performances. I will leave no stone unturned this winter as I analyse my own game and try to do my best to come back stronger.

Sometimes you learn more when things don’t go your way, and my bowling is my main priority this autumn because I feel I haven’t bowled as well as I did in 2007. On the batting front, I’ve had some very good days but, overall, I have not been as consistent as I would have liked, and I also didn’t make the most of the opportunities I had in a number of championship games to bat up at the top of the order.

I have not been selected for the England Performance Programme in India before Christmas, as I was last year, but I have been told to keep myself ready to take part in the England Lions tour to New Zealand in the New Year – if selected – so that is a little target for me in the medium term.

But, after a holiday and a month off in total to recharge batteries after what has been a really long and hard season – all the more so because we were contesting every competition, of course – I will be ready to get back to putting in some very hard work on my game.

And, in the Kent dressing room, I don’t think I will be the only one.

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent and England Lions all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday’s regular sports columnists.***

Van’s the man



JUST two days after suffering the pain of relegation with Kent, Martin van Jaarsveld was named Player of the Year by the Professional Cricketers’ Association.

The prestigious award is voted for by fellow county players who chose the 34-year-old from South Africa after a sparkling season. He also scooped the PCA’s Most Valuable Player (MVP) prize, pipping Northamptonshire’s Samit Patel.

Van Jaarsveld scored 1,137 runs, averaging more than 50 in the County Championship, including four centuries, but it was his form in one-day matches that was particularly impressive. He played a crucial role as the Spitfires reached the final of both the Twenty20 Cup and Friends Provident Trophy.

His four hundreds in the latter competition earned him the MVP award and he was also named in the team of the year, alongside fellow Kent team-mate Joe Denly.

Kent’s season ends in disaster

KENT’S 2008 season will go down in history as the one that got away.

A season of coulds, shoulds, ifs and buts ended in relegation on the final day of the season as Kent lost their exclusive tag of being the only side to have remained in Division One of the County Championship.

Having been so close to winning the Twenty20 Cup, Pro40 Division Two, being in the final of the Friends Provident Trophy and in the title hunt for the championship up to the penultimate game, it was a season of near misses.

For what could have been a history-making campaign, Kent are now left with questions to be asked about everything from the running of the club, to who will be recruited for next season after the departures of Matt Walker and Neil Dexter.

For skipper Rob Key, who let’s not forget was widely tipped to be Michael Vaughan’s successor earlier in the summer, it promises to be a soul-searching winter.

“You want to be the best team in the country at four-day cricket and that’s now out of the equation for next season,” he said.

“Obviously being in Division Two is going to be new for us and we’ve got to get out of that before we can even think about being the best again.”

The last-day defeat to Durham hit Key hard, who learned during the game that he had been fined £1,250 by the ECB for likening their pitch inspectors to the cast of the Muppet Show, following Kent’s game with Durham at Chester-le-Street in August.

“It was pretty tough,” Key admitted. “But that’s the thing about cricket. We pretty much knew what our fate was going to be after the first day and against such a strong side it was always going to be tough. By the time it hits you you’re at least prepared for it. The trouble is you’ve now got to wait six months to put it right.”

Key will captain the England performance squad on their tour to India in November, meaning he stands at least an outside chance of returning to the senior squad if any top-order batsmen suffer from injuries, depression or homesickness.

Team-mates Robbie Joseph, Joe Denly and Amjad Khan will also get a chance to exorcise this season’s demons on the sub-continent after they were also named in the squad.

Key’s own individual form was also a cause for regret. He made a superb unbeaten 120 in the last game of the Pro40 season, but his performances in the County Championship were sporadic.

He said: “I’ve not had the greatest year with the bat personally. You spend the whole summer working on things and now you have to wait until next season to put them into practice again.”

Kent coach Graham Ford is likely to remain at the club after once again distancing himself from the job as head coach of New Zealand.

If he does turn the job down, it will be the second time in two years the South African has favoured Kent over a Test side, after having declined an opportunity with India last year.

With the Indian Cricket League due to start later this month, it seems unlikely that either Justin Kemp or Azhar Mahmood will feature in the so-called ‘rebel’ league, as they would most certainly be risking their county futures.

• **Kent women’s captain Charlotte Edwards, will lead England in Australia for the ICC Women’s World Cup in March. She will be joined by fellow Kent team-mate Lydia Greenway.**



SOUL SEARCHING: Rob Key has some thinking to do ahead of next season

Picture: ADY KERRY

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MOTORSPORT
Shakey clinches British Superbikes crown **77**



CRICKET
James Tredwell on a disastrous season for Kent **79**

RUCK OVER RULES

Referees left confused by law changes

By **TOM HOWARD, DAVID PRITCHARD** and **GLENN PEARSON**

THE INTRODUCTION of new laws in rugby is causing friction between Kent clubs and referees.

Rugby Union's Experimental Law Variations (ELVs), which came into force at the start of the season, have caused much debate, but it appears the referee's role has become more demanding.

At the start of the season, 13 new laws were introduced on a year's trial to help develop the game. These were introduced to make the game faster, more attacking and more pleasing on the eye.

While clubs across the country are getting to grips with the change in rules and style, it appears certain regulations are now open to the referee's interpretation – thus making enforcements inconsistent.

One issue causing controversy among clubs in the county contacted by Kent on Sunday, is that existing laws around the ruck area are being policed more stringently by referees this season, including rolling away from a tackle and having two feet on the ground after a tackle.

Consistent

Steve Reynolds, director of rugby at Westcombe Park, who compete in National League 2, believes referees need to be more consistent in their approach in order to improve understanding.

He said: "The problem we have is I think the referees have not got to grips with the rucks. No-one wants a lot of penalties but it's the only way people are going to learn. Whilst trying to stick to them, clubs like ourselves are trying to teach them and then referees aren't doing it to the full extent.

"I think referees have to penalise sides, it doesn't matter if there's 30 penalties in a half. All the time we can get away with it, it will hold the game back."

New Thanet coach Darryl Vas agrees there needs to be a consistent approach by referees as clubs are having to change the way they play the game.

He said: "The one issue is the interpretation of the contact zone as we have found we are playing more ruck ball. More ruck ball means referees are able to stamp their approval on it and it is open to their interpretation, meaning it is more of a lottery. One referee will rule one way and one will rule another, which can make it difficult.

"In one game because a referee interpreted things differently, it meant forwards were going into the ruck gingerly as they were in fear of giving away points.

"The referee is supposed to be there to facilitate and not be a decider."

Kent 1 referee Graham Bough has tried to take a more lenient approach to the new rules, but admits it is has not been easy.

He said: "I think with the ELVs that have come into the game have made my job a lot easier.

"However, as a referee at this level your first objective is not to destroy the game and make sure you do not determine the result.

"In some games I could blow my whistle up to 30 times for the same penalty, but that would destroy the game.

"As a referee it is very much your own judgement and I have to interpret the rules for the situation.

"If there are persistent offenders breaking the rules then they will be dealt with a sin bin."

SEE PAGE 78 FOR MORE



Picture: BOB HAYTON

REGULATIONS: The Rugby Union Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) are meant to make rugby more pleasing on the eye, but some claim they make refereeing harder

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Southall set for return to Gills

NICKY Southall is in line to make his return to the Gillingham side on Tuesday after a successful loan period in the Ryman Premier with Dover Athletic.

The 36-year-old has made just two appearances for the Gills this season and was listed for loan in August by manager Mark Stimson to improve his fitness.

Southall dropped three divisions and joined up with former team-mate and Dover manager Andy Hessenthaler. He played every minute of the four matches before yesterday's trip to Carshalton, helping the Whites to victory in each game.

The fans' favourite is due to report for Gills' training tomorrow and could play in the club's Johnstone's Paint Trophy match against Colchester United.

Stimson ruled out any extension to the loan deal and is keen to add Southall to his injury-hit squad.

He said: "We will assess him when he gets back. The agreement was one month and he will be available to play if he's fit on Tuesday."

Gills reached the semi-finals of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy's southern section last season. Maligned by some as a minor competition, it is a high priority for Stimson, who won the FA Trophy at Wembley as Stevenage manager.

He said: "We treat it with the respect it deserves – a lot – because at the end of it there is a game at Wembley. I have been fortunate enough to lead a side out at Wembley and you never forget that day. These players will be told that and we will be going for it with a team I think will win the game."

• ***Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk for live updates from Tuesday's game.***



RETURN: Nicky Southall Picture: IGOR KUPCO

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